United Nations S/PV.7483

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7483rd meeting

Tuesday, 14 July 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Van Bohemen	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mrs. Alingue
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2015/439)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-21820 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

Owing to a recording system failure, no recording was made of part of the proceedings of this meeting. This record has been prepared on the basis of written statements provided by the speakers and by the Secretariat, but not confirmed against delivery.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2015/439)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of South Sudan and the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/531, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/439, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2230 (2015).

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Deng (South Sudan): As this is the first time that I speak before the Security Council under your presidency, Sir, I would like to congratulate you on your leadership of the Council this month and to pledge to you our full cooperation. I would also like to acknowledge the role of your predecessor in leading the Council last month.

I have addressed the Council on this issue on so many occasions that there is not much more to be said, other than to reiterate some important points.

I would like to welcome the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and its extension to 15 December 2015.

As I have said on numerous occasions, UNISFA is the best thing that has happened to Abyei Area for decades. Without international protection and assistance, the Ngok Dinka have always been victims of unrestrained attacks from their northern neighbours, supported by successive Governments of the Sudan. Despite blatant atrocities, no one has ever been held accountable. Although UNISFA by no means provides full protection, at least the threat of uncontrolled and unaccountable attacks from the north has been reduced. I know that, whenever attacks take place and the Ngok Dinka fall victim — such as the well-known case of the assassination of the Paramount Chief under the protective escort of UNISFA — the Ngok Dinka understandably see more of the negative than the big picture of protection. It should be remembered that, before UNISFA was deployed, Abyei was massively invaded in 2008, and then again in 2011, by the forces of the Sudan Government, which forced the civilian population to flee. That had the effect of depopulating the Area. Most of the civilian population has not yet been able to return, out of fear of further attacks from the north.

Despite the shortcomings of the protection role of UNISFA, it is the only source of protection for the Ngok Dinka. In view of the fact that the impasse on the final status of Abyei between the Sudan and South Sudan has now reached a deadlock, and considering that the present arrangement under UNISFA cannot continue indefinitely, the Security Council is called upon to find a workable solution that will be acceptable to both sides in the conflict.

I believe that some refinement of the present arrangements under UNISFA would turn the Area into an international protectorate so as to ensure

security, provide services and generate socioeconomic development is the most practical way forward. The issue of a final status for Abyei can then be negotiated within a reasonable time frame and in an atmosphere of relative cooperation between the two Governments, reinforced by the constructive engagement of the international community.

In reading the report of the Secretary-General (S/2015/439), I believe that considerable progress has been made in providing protection and assistance. But the challenge of security, stability and development for the Area remains formidable. In that context, I would like to reiterate what I have said on a number of occasions, that is, that the nine chiefdoms of Abyei have always been administered autonomously. Just as the Misseriya are self-administering within their area of normal residence, the Ngok Dinka now need to have all the organs of Government — legislative, executive and judiciary — under their autonomous control. An institution of cooperation between the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya, whether through a committee or a council or through the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, could then manage bilateral relations and resolve conflicts between them. Any idea about a joint administration whereby the Misseriya, while fully self-governing, participate in the administration of Ngok Dinka areas would be unacceptable by normative standards and would be rejected by the Ngok Dinka and the Government of South Sudan.

In addition to the security imperatives of the Area, the people of Abyei are in desperate need of services, infrastructure and socioeconomic development. That can be achieved in partnership with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and local community-based structures, along the continuum from humanitarian assistance to relief, recovery and development. Without those essentials, it is unlikely that the people of Abyei will return to their normal areas of residence and will remain refugees and internally displaced persons indefinitely. The Ngok Dinka of Abyei are currently virtually stateless, and therefore their displacement remains a source of instability for the region.

In developing a solution for the Area, I would hope that the Security Council, in collaboration with the African Union, will find these suggestions useful in formulating a programme of interim stabilization for the Abyei situation.

Finally, the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya have lived as friendly and cooperative neighbours under their respective leaderships for centuries. What is needed now is to restore those erstwhile cordial ties between the two communities and to turn the adversarial posture of national authorities into promoting cooperation between the two communities.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Hassan (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month, during which the Council is considering the periodic report (S/2015/439) of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei, submitted following the strategic review of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Also this month, deliberations were held regarding resolution 2230 (2015), which was just adopted, on the renewal of the UNISFA mandate. I should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our brotherly neighbour Ethiopia for its valuable efforts for the sake of strengthening peace and stability in the Sudan, especially in Abyei through the role played by UNISFA.

In several of its paragraphs, today's resolution clearly underscores the importance of commitment to the full implementation of the agreements signed by the Sudan and South Sudan with regard to resolving the final status of Abyei. Furthermore, the resolution emphasizes that dialogue and negotiation between the two sides are the only way to determine that status. We therefore welcome the references made in the resolution in that regard.

We would like to emphasize the importance of commitment to the implementation of those agreements, in particular the 20 June 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, the 29 June 2011 Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, the 30 July 2011 Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission and the 27 September 2012 Agreement on Security Arrangements. It goes without saying that all those agreements are complementary, as they address the border area, and must therefore be implemented equally as a whole because they affect each other. Furthermore in that regard, we underscore that the Security Council has referred to those agreements in connection with the implementation matrix agreed

upon and signed on 12 March 2013, which is now a document of the Council that must also be followed to the letter.

While we reiterate our commitment to the implementation of those agreements, we also emphasize that the shortest path to resolving the final status of Abyei in line with the agreements begins with establishing the temporary administration and security mechanisms, namely, the Abyei legislative council, the Abyei administration and the Abyei police. Establishing those agreed upon mechanisms would serve to fill any administrative or security vacuums and help to pave the way towards stability and peaceful coexistence among local communities, including the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka. That should be followed by efforts to resolve the final status of the region in order to ensure security, stability and lasting coexistence among the local populations, in particular the two main tribes.

The resolution just adopted clearly states that there is no alternative to dialogue to resolve the final status of Abyei, and it also warns against any unilateral measures by any side in that regard. We also welcome the fact that resolution 2230 (2015) reiterates the Security Council's rejection of any such measures, as well as its clear reference to the fact that the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Security Council have in previous resolutions both expressed profound concern about the unilateral measure by the Ngok Dinka to hold a referendum.

In that context, we also remind the Council of the Sudan's decision to withdraw its armed forces from the Abyei Area, pursuant to the agreements I mentioned. The Sudanese armed forces did not invade Abyei, they were already present there. They withdrew pursuant to resolution 2046 (2012) and the road map drafted and adopted by the African Union. We have previously expressed our position on this point here in the Council, which reflects our full commitment to implementing the agreements signed with South Sudan, in particular those pertaining to the Abyei Area and border security arrangements, and especially on the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. Reports of the Secretary-General on Abyei clearly indicate that the Government of the Sudan has lived up to its commitments in terms of establishing those mechanisms and their operationalization.

In conclusion, the Government of the Sudan has clearly demonstrated the extent of its commitment to implementing all of those agreements. The Sudan has always sent representatives to participate in those agreed upon security and administrative mechanisms. While representatives of the Sudanese Government have always participated in the mechanisms, the other party has been absent. The Council is aware of that fact, which is also documented in the report of the Secretary-General before the Council today. That is why we would like to reiterate the need to operationalize the joint monitoring commission for Abyei. It is very important that it begin its work in order to fill the current vacuum. The Sudanese Government has effectively participated in that mechanism. I think the Council is aware of the fact that the work of the commission has been postponed simply because one of the parties has not sent its representatives for so long.

We would like to reiterate our concerns about the delays in setting up the mechanism. We look forward to its establishment sooner rather than later so that it can play its role in filling any possible administrative or security vacuums in Abyei. That would help to establish an appropriate political environment to make it impossible for the two main tribes to coexist peacefully and, on that basis, resolve the issue of the final status of Abyei and its future pursuant to the relevant agreements signed by the parties. We have consistently renewed our commitment to implementing these agreements so as to achieve a resolution to the final status of Abyei in a way that guarantees lasting peace, security and stability.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7484

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7484th meeting

Tuesday, 14 July 2015, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Van Bohemen	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mrs. Alingue
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2015/486)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-21826 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2015/486)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/486, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Martin Kobler and Her Excellency Mrs. Dina Kawar, Permanent Representative of Jordan, in her capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004), concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kobler.

Mr. Kobler: At the outset, I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to New Zealand for its current leadership of the Security Council.

(*spoke in French*)

Since it is the Fourteenth of July, I would like to pay due tribute to France on its National Day.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

Also allow me to express my best wishes to all Muslims during this month of Ramadan and on the upcoming festival of Eid Al-Fitr.

(*spoke in English*)

I wish to thank the Security Council for renewing our robust mandate. I have no doubt that its fulfilment will pave the way to a more stable, more secure and more peaceful Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, the success of our mandate depends upon a continued constructive partnership with the Government. Today, I would like to update the Council on three issues that deserve our persistent engagement: first, the security situation in the east; secondly, the electoral process; and, thirdly, the strategic dialogue between the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The protection of civilians is at the core of the MONUSCO mandate and at the forefront of all our military activities. Allow me to begin by telling the Council about a ray of hope that I have just seen on one of our front lines. As we speak, the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) military cordon and search operations, supported by MONUSCO forces against the Forces de résistance patriotiques en Ituri (FRPI), are ongoing. Those operations have been the most effective since the fall of the Mouvement du 23 mars. They are a testament to what our collective efforts can achieve.

Let me be clear: not to use force is always our preferred option. Our priority was to ensure that the FRPI disarmed voluntarily. We actively participated and supported the negotiations that would have allowed the combatants to reintegrate into civilian life. However, the use of force proved to be inevitable this time. After missing three consecutive deadlines to surrender, MONUSCO forces, in support of the Congolese army, engaged the FRPI in a jointly planned and coordinated response. The Congolese army's ground offensive, aided by our attack helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles, proved to be effective. In that regard, I wish to thank the Deputy Force Commander and my Deputy, Mr. David Gressly, for their active engagement in the negotiations.

Since 3 June, our joint efforts have neutralized about one fourth of the total FRPI strength. Beyond purely military successes, peace consolidation will also necessitate the restitution of State authority and the creation of job opportunities, especially for the youth, and solutions for ex-combatants who would otherwise see better opportunities with the armed group. The operations demonstrate that, by joining forces, we can more effectively protect defenceless populations. By unifying our stance, we can consolidate peace. And by working together, we can restore hope.

(*spoke in French*)

The operations against the FRPI clearly demonstrate what we can achieve when the forces of MONUSCO and the Democratic Republic of the Congo work together. Allow me to commend the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the cooperation between MONUSCO forces and the FARDC in the operations against the FRPI. The results of the partnership clearly strengthen our commitment and determination to combat the threat represented by the armed groups.

(*spoke in English*)

While success in neutralizing the FRPI is possible, joint operations against the FDLR in North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga have been at a standstill now for five months. However, we need to overcome the current impasse that has stalled our joint efforts against the FDLR. I have repeatedly highlighted an undeniable fact, that is, the Congolese Government has made great strides over the past 10 years in restoring security. However, in many parts of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the population remains at the mercy of a number of armed groups.

In early February, our support to joint operations against the FDLR were put on hold. Since then, the Congolese Government has elected to pursue those operations unilaterally. The suspension of joint cooperation by the FARDC goes beyond the original question on human rights. We have revised the human rights due diligence policy and are looking for ways to resume cooperation within the framework of our — and the Government's — commitment to human rights.

Despite the FARDC's progress in dislodging the FDLR from some of its strongholds, the Congolese army is finding it difficult to consolidate its hold on liberated areas. Today, the FDLR is returning to some of its previous strongholds. As a result, the population has been dragged into another cycle of violence. In Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territory — the theatre of anti-FDLR operations — insecurity is again on the rise. Incidents of targeted killings, rapes, armed robberies and abductions for ransom are becoming more common. United Nations staff and humanitarian relief workers have also been targeted.

Regrettably, the paralysis of anti-FDLR operations has cascaded into other fields of operation. The repercussions on the ground of that paralysis are tangible. In Beni, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) continues to instil fear in the hearts of a defenceless population. I continue to stress that we must not underestimate the Islamist nature of the ADF. Since October 2014, 327 civilians have lost their lives in terrorist attacks, and two of our Tanzanian peacekeepers paid the ultimate price in the course of their duties.

However, in the past week, MONUSCO's robust patrolling by 156 personnel and the United Nations police engagement in monitoring and advising nearly 900 Congolese policemen has probably prevented even more carnage. Nevertheless, I call on the Government to join forces, to work hand in hand and to provide the Congolese population its basic right to security and safety. Waiting is simply not an option. Every day we wait, more Congolese women cannot tend to their fields out of fear of being raped. Every day we wait, more Congolese villagers are forced to pay illegal taxes. Every day we wait, more Congolese children are recruited into armed groups, exploited and abused. We are united in purpose; let us also reunite in action.

The electoral process is at the core of the political discussions in Kinshasa. Peaceful and credible elections are the most reliable litmus test for any democracy. Elections alone are not a guarantee for stability, but the absence of credible elections is increasing the risk for instability. In November 2016, the Congo will hold presidential and legislative elections. The imperatives of resolution 2211 (2015) are crystal clear. A transparent and credible electoral process must be ensured, while respecting the Constitution and the electoral calendar. However, the responsibility for credible elections ultimately lies with the Government.

I see four significant difficulties that must be overcome to ensure a credible and transparent electoral process that meets the expectations of the Congolese population. First, a budget is urgently needed. Secondly, the electoral calendar has to be realistic. Thirdly, the voters' registry needs to be updated to include, for

example, young adults who have reached voting age since the last elections in order not to disenfranchise the young population. Fourthly, as in any elections, political space must be given to the opposition and civil society.

I welcome President Kabila's initiative to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders to find a way to ensure consensus on the electoral process. These consultations, however, should not delay the presidential and legislative elections that are to be held in November 2016, as foreseen by the Constitution and resolution 2211 (2015).

The strategic dialogue between MONUSCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo began in March. Since then, we have met at the highest levels with a common purpose in mind — setting in motion a gradual, mutually agreeable exit strategy and reinvigorating our sincere collaboration on issues of security, elections, human rights and communications, which are areas lying at the very heart of our mandate. I wish to thank the Government, and especially His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Raymond Tshibanda, for engaging with us so actively on the dialogue and for working tirelessly on this process. I am very pleased that the talks are progressing in a spirit of mutual confidence and trust.

In May, teams composed of MONUSCO staff and Government officials conducted joint missions in 29 territories across the 4 conflict-affected provinces. Armed with detailed questionnaires and following jointly agreed methodology, the teams travelled through most of the remote areas to obtain a first-hand understanding of the security situation prevailing in the east. They did not look for hearsay, academic analyses or reported facts. They wanted and reported on the reality on the ground as they saw it. Their findings are now being discussed with the Government and will serve as a basis for drawing joint conclusions on how and when we will eventually leave the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are still differences on that issue. While the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo would like to immediately suggest a further reduction, we would rather have a phased and structured approach along the lines of the provisions of resolution 2211 (2015).

We all agree that MONUSCO must progressively leave the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have, in fact, already begun the drawdown. Of the 2,000 troops earmarked to be reduced under the current mandate, 1,420 have already been repatriated, and other units will follow very soon. It is our common understanding that once we depart, peacekeeping forces do not have to return. The timeline for our departure should depend on the progress on the ground. The sooner the Government and MONUSCO join forces, the sooner armed groups will be eradicated. The sooner armed groups are eradicated and State authority is restored, the sooner more troops can be reduced.

In conclusion, allow me to touch briefly on a number of other important issues facing the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As I mentioned earlier, economic opportunities are vital for peacebuilding. When it comes to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there is one often-repeated truth — its natural riches could easily provide the Congolese population with what they want. Yet, despite abundant resources, a considerable growth rate and the availability of untapped resources, such as agriculture and human capital, the Congolese remain one of the poorest people in the world

The fall of commodity prices and investors' concerns about the stability of the country ahead of the elections are worrying signs. I welcome the efforts of Special Envoy Said Djinnit to organize an investors' conference in Kinshasa in February 2016. I invite national and international partners to invest in the young people, whose future should be not be hindered by high unemployment rates and a lack of opportunities.

The fight against armed groups will not be sustainably successful if questions of economic development and employment are not addressed. In this context, I want to highlight the visit of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ambassador Dina Kawar, and her delegation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 2015. That visit underlined the importance of good governance in the mining sector, focusing further on the arms embargo and fostering cooperation between MONUSCO, the sanctions Committee and the Group of Experts.

Lastly, I have been monitoring the situation in Burundi very closely as the country has descended into violence over the past two months. As of today, over 140,000 people have fled into neighbouring countries, including 12,800 to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I highlight those events to remind us again of the importance of respecting the Constitution and of

creating the necessary political space for a national consensus around elections.

The implementation of the national, regional and international commitments of the Addis Ababa agreement requires the joint efforts of the international community. In this context, it is a pleasure to congratulate Mr. Ibrahima Fall on his appointment as the African Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region and Mr. Thomas Perriello as the new United States Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa. This strong team of envoys for the Great Lakes can indeed accompany the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the times ahead.

By tradition, I always conclude by thanking the national and international staff of the United Nations for their commitment to securing a better future for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Today, I wish to commend the performance of the troops of the Ituri brigade for their achievement in its protection mandate. They have truly demonstrated tremendous courage in actively engaging and pursuing the Forces de résistance patriotiques de l'Ituri over the past weeks. This is precisely this type of peacekeeping that the Force Commander and I have always advocated for. But even more importantly, this engagement is what the population and the Government expects from us.

I thank the Council for its continued and unrelenting support. We are all witnesses to a momentous moment in the history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The seeds of a stable, secure and resilient Congo have already been planted. It is my hope that we will see them flourish in the coming years.

The President: I thank Mr. Kobler for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Kawar.

Mrs. Kawar (Jordan): I have the honour to brief the members of the Council in my capacity as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In my statement, I intend to provide an overview of my visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda from 24 to 29 May. I will also briefly highlight the work of the Committee since 22 January, the most recent occasion on which I delivered a statement to the Council concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions (see S/PV.7367).

In my briefing on 22 January, I noted that the date of 12 March would mark 11 years since the Council established the sanctions Committee to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo. I had expressed the hope that, during the course of 2015, we would collectively acquire a better appreciation of the commitment to the implementation of the sanctions regime and what actions could be taken to address any gaps or deficiencies. I noted that I was aware of the challenges before us, particularly the differences of views in the region as to who bears the most responsibility for violating the sanctions. I also underlined the importance of the Committee's engaging with interlocutors by hearing their views and providing assistance, as necessary, so as to strengthen the implementation of the sanctions regime.

Several months later, I spent a week in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, which was the first occasion on which a Chair of the sanctions Committee had travelled to the Great Lakes region to assess the implementation of the arms embargo, assets freeze and travel ban. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda for having facilitated the visit. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my personal thanks to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kobler and his team in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which provided invaluable support, particularly logistical support, during my stay in all three countries.

During the course of my visit, I explained to interlocutors that, in accordance with the terms of reference agreed upon by the Committee, the purpose of my visit was to learn how to improve the effectiveness of sanctions provisions under the relevant Council resolutions; to collect first-hand information about the situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring States, including names for listing; to strengthen the dialogue between relevant stakeholders and the Committee; and to receive any concrete proposals that States might have with a view to strengthening the implementation of the sanctions regime, including requests for capacity-building. The terms of reference also noted that the visit was expected to feed into the Council's future review of the sanctions measures.

During my meetings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, several themes resonated, namely, the upcoming elections; the recent interruption of joint operations between the Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and MONUSCO; and the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities' call for a reduction of 7,000 MONUSCO troops by the end of this year. In meetings with Government officials, civil society representatives and United Nations representatives, I touched upon the paradox between the Democratic Republic of the Congo's extensive natural resources and its difficult path towards governance, leaving the State unable to capitalize on its resources to generate wealth and further the development of the country and opportunities for its population. On a number of occasions, I was reminded of the Government's assertions that neighbouring States were complicit in smuggling networks linked to destabilizing activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the illicit trade in natural resources, and of allegations that members of the Government and FARDC elements were themselves complicit in such networks.

In a climate where serious efforts are needed to investigate and prosecute smuggling networks, and in the knowledge that no individuals have been sanctioned by the Committee since December 2012, I informed interlocutors that as the Chair of the Committee, I was interested in determining whether several well-placed sanction designations, substantiated of course by sufficient evidence, could target malefactors as a deterrent and strengthen the authority of the State. I encouraged interlocutors to put forward names of key spoilers in order to set an example for those operating at the mid-level and lower levels. The Minister of Interior of the Democratic Republic of the Congo voiced the readiness of his Government to work with the Group of Experts to provide suggested names for designations. However, when the Group of Experts held a up meeting in the Ministry on 12 June with a view to following up on my request, no such names were provided. We are still hoping to make progress on that point.

I wish to confirm that since the adoption of resolution 1807 (2008) in March of that year, the embargo no longer applies to the Government, and that the procedure of notifications to the Committee regarding the transfer of military equipment from supplier States to the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been simply for informational purposes. The Committee is willing to further engage on this matter with the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo if they so desire, with a view of providing any further clarifications.

On weapons stockpile management, I reiterated the Council's call on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance stockpile security and implement a national weapons-marking programme, and I echoed the findings of the Group of Experts from a previous report that the FARDC remained the main source of weapons and ammunition for non-governmental armed groups. Stockpile security and weapons-marking need to be prioritized, as repeatedly called for by the Group of Experts and the Council itself, but there does not seem to be any movement on that issue.

In that connection, I wish to note that the United Nations Mine Action Service briefed the Committee on 6 March, and noted that financial constraints have limited the weapons and ammunition management assistance to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In my written report of the visit to the region, which was discussed on Friday in the Committee, I called upon Committee members to earmark funds to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, with particular emphasis on the construction of new weapons depots in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. That is a tangible way that Council members can help move forward an issue that has seen little if any progress, and build the Democratic Republic of the Congo's capacity in weapons management and storage.

Another outcome of the visit was to pave the way for improved communication and collaboration between the Group of Experts and Governments, the United Nations and civil society members. As a Committee, we must follow up with the Group to ensure that the access promised to the members during my visit is granted.

In Rwanda, the general tenor of the meetings was positive, although the Rwandan side echoed the counter-argument to the Democratic Republic of the Congo's complaints that it was responsible for the problems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was made clear that the authorities felt the Democratic Republic of the Congo was using Rwanda unfairly as a scapegoat for problems that arose from governance issues. Rwandan officials felt that the responsibility rested with the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for achieving progress in areas such as the governance of the natural resource trade and the

neutralization of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda.

In Uganda, allegations emerged during meetings with the Minister of Defence and the Acting Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the armed group the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), sanctioned by the Committee in June 2014, has links with terrorist groups, such as Al-Shabaab. To date, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not found any such links. In that context, I wish to express gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for having arrested the sanctioned ADF leader Jamil Mukulu and agreed to Kampala's request to extradite him to Uganda. I also wish to thank the Ugandan authorities for having conveyed to me their intention to allow the Group of Experts to interview Mukulu and any of his associates arrested with him.

In Kampala, my delegation also held a breakfast meeting with representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council, and spoke via video-teleconference with representatives of the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Said Djinnit, in Nairobi. We also met with two representatives of a Kampala-based business that was sanctioned by the Committee in March 2007 for having purchased gold through a regular commercial deal with traders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are tightly linked to militias. The business is under investigation by the Ugandan authorities.

Since my briefing to the Council on 22 January, the Committee convened a formal meeting on 6 March with the States of the region and held three sessions of informal consultations on 31 March, 28 April and 10 July. At the 6 March meeting, the Committee invited the representatives of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to share their views on the 2014 final report of the Group of Experts (see S/2015/19), together with our fellow Committee members Angola, on behalf of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and South Africa, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community.

Following the 6 March meeting, the Committee took the unprecedented step of sending letters in May encouraging a number of the invited States to undertake investigations pursuant to recommendations of the Group of Experts. I handed copies of the letters addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda to interlocutors during the visit. The Committee intends to follow up these letters, as well as those that were sent to Burundi, South Africa and Tanzania. At the consultations on 31 March, the Committee heard a briefing by Mr. Alphonse Ntumba Luaba, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, concerning its activities. During the consultations on 28 April, the Group of Experts provided an overview of its workplan on its current mandate.

Finally, during the Committee's consultations on Friday 10 July, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the Group's progress update to the Committee, which was circulated on 2 July. I also conveyed a number of personal reflections on my visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, some of which I intend to echo during the Council's consultations following this meeting.

The President: I thank Mrs. Kawar for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Gata Mavita wa Lufuta (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, Sir, I should like to welcome the accession of your country, New Zealand, to the presidency of the Security Council and to congratulate you personally on the very able way in which you have conducted the discussions and the work of the Council since the beginning of the month. Allow me also to express the appreciation of my delegation to Mr. Ramlan Bin Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, for the way in which he presided over the deliberations of the Security Council in June. Finally, I would like to pay due tribute to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his ongoing and unfailing concern for my country, as well as his personal involvement in strengthening peace in my country.

Today's meeting is an important and timely opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved in the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo since the Security Council adopted resolution 2211 (2015) on 26 March. We have taken note of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2015/486) on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

We have taken careful note of the briefing provided by Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, whose presence among us today I welcome. We have also taken note of the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Jordan in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My delegation requests the Council's understanding in revisiting a number of the points highlighted in the report that is the subject of our debate, particularly with regard to the implementation of the commitments made by my country under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa, relations with MONUSCO, the progress of the electoral process, and the security situation in the eastern part of my country.

As Council members are aware, my country's commitments under the Framework Agreement can be summarized by the following general points: the pursuit of security sector reform with regard to the army and the police, the consolidation of State authority in the east of my country, and the fight against armed groups. My country is also responsible for promoting the structural reform of State institutions, including finance reform, and for promoting the objectives of national reconciliation, tolerance and democracy. Three years after the signing of the Agreement, there is reason to claim that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has met most of its commitments. Since the Government put in place a legal and regulatory framework for the reforms to be undertaken in the implementation of the Framework Agreement, significant progress has been made, as acknowledged in the report of the Secretary-General.

In terms of relations with MONUSCO, the dialogue launched with the United Nations in the context of the strategic review continues. We are convinced that my Government will reach common ground with the United Nations and that an agreement will surely be reached on the issues that are the subject of the discussion.

Regarding the elections, I can confirm that the establishment of democracy in my country became a reality with the organization of the first truly free and democratic elections in our history in 2006; the organization of legislative and presidential elections, with a term expiring in 2011; effective decentralization; and the planned holding of local, municipal, urban, provincial, senatorial, parliamentary and presidential elections in 2015 and 2016. My delegation wishes to reassure the Council and to affirm the resolve of my Government to anchor itself more than ever in the democratic culture. Thus, after an open and lively debate, the National Independent Electoral Commission published a comprehensive calendar of upcoming elections and set the budget for the organization of the entire electoral cycle. This reflects our desire to organize transparent and credible elections.

But as recalled by His Excellency Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Republic and Head of State, in his address to the nation on the occasion of the commemoration of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the accession of our country to international sovereignty, the road leading to the third cycle of elections in our country is littered with a number of obstacles that must be removed so as to enable the conduct of elections in a peaceful climate.

Those obstacles are related to the comprehensive electoral calendar that was vociferously demanded by the opposition, yet immediately challenged after its publication, and to the financing of the electoral process which was assessed well after the adoption of the 2015 budget. The total requirement for the organization of the elections amounted to over $1 billion, while the actual budget for all Government requirements was limited to $9 billion. Another obstacle was the participation in the 2015 election of minors who came of age during the electoral cycle and were excluded by the electoral law. The law provides, in effect, that this important segment of the Congolese population can take part only in the upcoming elections after the renewal of the electoral register.

One last obstacle was the imperative of securing the electoral process. We had regrettable experience of political intolerance and rejection of the election results by the losers leading to deadly violence during and after the 2006 and 2011 elections. To address that situation, the President of the Republic has engaged the nation in consultations and dialogue with a view to uniting the majority, the opposition and civil society in an agreement on ways and means to overcome these obstacles. It is important to note here that the appeal for political dialogue on the part of the Head of State, is a matter for the Congolese, who must learn to talk to each other without foreign interference, as occurs everywhere else.

With regard to our partners and friends, we are confident that they will peacefully accompany the Democratic Republic of the Congo in this learning

exercise and strengthening of democracy by avoiding inappropriate interference, as I have already noted.

My Government has undertaken considerable efforts in security sector reform; these are well known to the Council and I shall therefore not dwell on them. With respect to the security situation, it is true that some parts of our country remain the subject of security concerns. That is particularly true regarding a few pockets of insecurity controlled by foreign armed groups in the provinces of North and South Kivu. The Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC), with the support of MONUSCO, are doing their best to secure Beni and its surrounding area, which remain under the threat of the Ugandan terrorists of the Allied Democratic Forces. In the same context, the FARDC continues to fight alone against the Rwandan rebels of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, and its results have been encouraging.

Furthermore, the Government is determined to close the file on the former rebellion of the Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23), in the context of which the Government granted amnesty to many of its members for acts of war. As to their repatriation, the ninth Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, held in Luanda on 18 May, recommended that the implementation of the Nairobi declarations be completed within three months and signed between the Congolese Government and the former rebels of M-23, particularly with regard to the repatriation of the former rebels cantonned in Rwanda and Uganda.

To that end, a Nairobi declarations assessment meeting was held on 7 July in Kinshasa to accelerate the repatriation of the former M-23 combatants. The coordinator of the national monitoring mechanisms observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo should put all issues on the table with a view to finally closing the file, as indicated in the Nairobi report, by August, at the latest. A Congolese delegation, led by the Vice-Minister of National Defence, visited Kigali in early February, where he signed a statement with the Rwandan authorities on the repatriation of former M-23 rebels. A total of 453 former M-23 combatants, who had crossed the Rwandan border after their defeat by the FARDC in November 2013, were identified. It is our belief that the cases registered in Rwanda have been closed.

In Uganda, on the other hand, the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Kampala had received 1,763 individual commitments, while the amnesty committee received 1,678. The gap of 85 commitments represents the category of persons who had subscribed by mail and who, for the most part, were already on Congolese soil. To date, 1,670 files have been dealt with.

In the context of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the former M-23 combatants, Mr. Gressly, Deputy Special Representative of Secretary-General, has disbursed the first tranche as follows: $1.5 million on the part of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, $15 million on the part of the World Bank, $7 million on the part of Sweden and $6 million on the part of MONUSCO. The latter will provide an additional $7 million on 1 August. It should be pointed out that 2,985 ex-combatants entered training programmes with a viewed towards their socioeconomic reintegration. Some 1,692 ex-combatants were trained at the Kamina military base and 1,293 were trained at the Kitona base; all of them received a demobilization card. In contrast, the 819 ex-combatants who were trained at Kotakoli were all transferred to Kamina.

My Government takes careful note of the Secretary-General's comments and is determined to move forward in fulfilling its commitments under the Framework Agreement. It appreciates the true value of the assistance provided by the United Nations and hopes for, as stressed by the Secretary-General, greater and more active mobilization by the signatory States and guarantors of the Framework Agreement in implementing the commitments they have also undertaken so that the Great Lakes region may be a haven of peace, which is imperative if there is to be cooperation and development.

I would conclude by saying a word about the briefing made by the Chair of the Sanctions Committee. Our position on this issue is well known. The ongoing transfer of weapons to armed groups, or between armed groups, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions justifies the need for continued close monitoring of the implementation of the arms embargo and other measures imposed by the resolutions related to the Democratic Republic of Congo. But we should be wary of confusion: the Government, which is subject to the demands of reforming its armed forces and its security and police services, should not be put on the same footing as illegal armed groups, which freely obtain weapons to maintain insecurity. Basically, it

must be clear that the arms embargo applies only to armed groups.

Finally, my delegation wishes to express to all members of the Council the gratitude of the people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their dedication to the cause of their country.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7485

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7485th meeting
Wednesday, 15 July 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Van Bohemen	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Šorytė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Ths situation in Libya

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-21952 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Bernardino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Bernardino León and by Ambassador Ramlan Bin Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011).

I now give the floor to Mr. León.

Mr. León: Since my last briefing to the Council (S/PV.7398), the situation in Libya has continued to deteriorate amidst significant political fragmentation and violence. Too many Libyans have died in a fight among brothers, and far too much destruction has taken place. The chaos on the ground has also given way to the expansion of extremist groups, including Daesh affiliates, into a number of areas across the country. This vacuum of authority has also been exploited by human smugglers, and many refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are using the country as a launching area for an unprecedented surge in dangerous crossings of the Mediterranean.

The Libyan people have been crying out for an end to the chaos. I am pleased to report today that this message has been heard by a number of courageous Libyan leaders, who, on 11 July, in Skhirat, Morocco, initialled a political agreement. This act signalled the adoption of a framework for further talks and has brought the country one step closer to ending the conflict and fulfilling the goals of the 2011 revolution.

While some members of the dialogue were not present, the message in Skhirat was one of reconciliation and encouragement for all Libyans to join together to end the unnecessary state of affairs and suffering. The agreement was initialled by the dialogue committee of the Libyan House of Representatives, boycotting members of the House of Representatives and independent personalities, as well as a number of representatives of political parties and of municipalities from eastern and western Libya who witnessed a ceremony that was attended by the Foreign Minister of Morocco.

The initialling of the agreement is only one albeit important step forward in the process of addressing the political and institutional divisions. This initialling also marks a consensus on the text among the parties, with the clear understanding that it will not be further amended, without prejudice to the negotiations on its annexes.

The agreement sets out a comprehensive framework that will allow Libya to complete the transition that started in 2011. The text includes guiding principles and puts in place institutions and decision-making mechanisms to steer the transition until the adoption of a permanent constitution. It is intended to culminate in the creation of a modern, democratic State based on the principle of inclusion, the rule of law, separation of powers and respect for human rights.

I want to praise the Libyan participants for their achievement after months of tough negotiations. It is a Libyan agreement, developed by Libyan representatives through their relentless efforts and political determination. The multiple tracks of this process sought to involve all segments of Libyan society, from municipal representatives to political parties, women and activists who have been engaged since January and gathered in Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Switzerland and Morocco, and at the European Union in Brussels.

As members of the Council know, the dialogue committee of the General National Congress decided not to initial the agreement, although it remains committed to the dialogue process. As I mentioned in Skhirat, I want to emphasize that the door remains open for them to join. I also wish to emphasize and acknowledge their important role in developing the text. The agreement is also the fruit of their hard work, and they should not be on the sidelines as the shared vision for a solution to the crisis continues to take shape. The Libyan people have unequivocally expressed themselves as favouring peace, and I am confident that moderate voices will hear the call and work constructively to end the conflict

and bring Libya back to the path of stability, democratic transition and economic recovery.

Through the agreement, which has received strong support from the international community, important progress has been made. But I shall not shy away from underscoring that crucial work remains to be done to complete this first and significant development. As we move on to the next phase of negotiations, on the formation of a Government of national accord and the annexes to the agreement, I am confident that all remaining issues will be addressed. The Libyan people deserve a strong Government representing all Libyans, a Government that the international community can and will support, to address the many challenges that the country is facing.

Allow me to express my earnest gratitude to Morocco and all of Libya's neighbours for their support and generosity in hosting the many sessions of the dialogue. Their support, and that of many other countries, such as Algeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the League of Arab States and the European Union, has been crucial in building consensus throughout the process. I also wish to thank the African Union and the forum of Libya's neighbouring countries for their support and for having provided important opportunities for crucial discussions and exchanges.

In western Libya, local ceasefires and reconciliation agreements have improved the security situation and allowed for an improvement in the humanitarian situation. A growing rapprochement between the cities of Misrata, Warshafana, Al-Zawiya and Zintan has been instrumental in facilitating the ceasefires.

In central Libya, Daesh-affiliated militants established full control over the city of Sirte and the surrounding coastal area. Misrata forces withdrew to the area of Abu Grain, some 75 kilometres east of Sirte, but continue to carry out air strikes and to block the Daesh advances westward. The prevailing political and security divisions within the country have prevented the development of a coordinated policy to deal with the threat of Daesh affiliates.

In Benghazi, clashes between the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries and Operation Dignity continue, with neither side making significant gains. The Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries' early July offensive has not changed the situation on the ground. In Derna, hard-line Islamists from the Shura Council of Mujahedin in Derna ejected Daesh from the city in June.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has continued its efforts to convene the security track of the political dialogue. For that purpose, the Mission has organized a number of meetings with armed groups in Libya and abroad, and intensified its regular bilateral contacts with leaders of armed formations from all sides. We expect to have meetings in the coming weeks in Egypt and other countries of the region, and to convene the track of tribal leaders in Egypt, whose role has been equally important.

The role of security actors is another important part of the overall reconciliation effort and will be instrumental in sustaining, supporting and implementing the political agreement. We have listened to their concerns and taken on board their contributions, and it is my intention to convene all those involved in security before the final signing of the agreement.

With respect to the human rights situation in the country, violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law have continued to take place with impunity across Libya, with the civilian population bearing the brunt of the protracted fighting. In Benghazi, where fighting has again escalated in recent days, the shelling of residential areas has led to the killing and injury of children and medical workers, as well as to further destruction of the civilian infrastructure. The two main hospitals still functioning, the Benghazi Medical Centre and the Jalaa hospital, have been hit. Armed men wielding hand grenades reportedly entered the Medical Centre on 5 July, threatening doctors and other staff. A number of civilians are believed to be trapped, including in Al-Blaad and Al-Sabri, as the warring parties fail to ensure their safe evacuation. More than half of the population in Benghazi is estimated to have left in a bid to escape the violence, and ongoing fighting is impeding humanitarian relief operations. The situation in Benghazi, birthplace of the revolution, remains of serious concern. We must refocus our efforts on that city in particular to try to put an end to the fighting, which has caused so much destruction.

In western Libya, periodic outbursts of fighting, including in residential areas, have led to the killing and injury of civilians, including children, in the cities of Al-Zawiya and Al-Ajailat. Armed groups have targeted individuals because of their family or perceived political affiliations. Thousands of Libyans remain

illegally detained, including detainees have reportedly been tortured. They include people held solely based on their family or tribal identity, and many have been abducted for the purpose of exchanging them for fighters. Also among them are humanitarian workers. I was encouraged by the recent release of prisoners in various cities during the past weeks. However, all those illegally detained should be released without further delay. I have urged all parties to do so before the end of Ramadan. Such measures are not only a matter of human rights; they could also contribute significantly to facilitating the next phase of the political dialogue and to reconciliation.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the plight of foreign nationals, especially irregular migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, who remain vulnerable to killings, prolonged arbitrary detention, exploitation and sexual violence, among other abuses. A number of non-Muslim migrant workers remain missing after having being abducted around Sirte in previous months. I fear for their safety after Daesh released videos in February and April 2015 depicting the brutal killings of some 50 Christians.

The lack of security impedes the resumption of the work of the judiciary in Benghazi, Derna and Sirte. In Tripoli, the final session of the trial of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, Abdullah Al-Senussi and 35 other former regime officials for violations committed during the 2011 conflict took place on 20 May, and the verdict is still expected on 28 July. Libya must overcome this dark chapter in its history by holding those responsible for serious crimes accountable in accordance with international standards for due process and fair trial.

The overall humanitarian situation continues to cause concern. The number of internally displaced persons has doubled since September 2014, and there has been an underfunded humanitarian response. Awbari, Ghat and other areas of the south that require assistance remain largely inaccessible to the international humanitarian community as a result of deteriorating security conditions.

Libya is at a critical stage, and it is my duty to seize this opportunity in addressing the Council to urge all parties in Libya to continue to engage constructively in the dialogue process. Spoilers should be held accountable because they bear the responsibility of hindering the political agreement. Once again, we must join together to send an unequivocal message that only through dialogue and political compromise can a peaceful resolution of the conflict be achieved. A peaceful transition will succeed in Libya only through a significant and coordinated effort in supporting a future Government of national accord and by ensuring that sufficient security is achieved in Tripoli and throughout the country so that the key functions of the public administration can resume. A Government of national accord is the only interlocutor through which the growing threat of Daesh and its affiliate groups can be effectively tackled.

I am confident that the international community is ready to offer the needed support based on the priorities that the Libyans will identify. The United Nations stands ready to work with the Libyans to ensure national ownership in that process.

The President: I thank Mr. León for his briefing and commend him and his team for the very valuable work they have been undertaking on behalf of the United Nations.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Ibrahim.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): In accordance with paragraph 24 (e) of resolution 1970 (2011), of 26 February 2011, I have the honour to report to the Security Council on the work of the Committee established pursuant to that resolution concerning Libya. My report covers the period from 5 March to 15 July 2015, during which time the members of the Committee met once in informal consultations.

At the outset, I would like to briefly touch upon the activities of the Committee related to the six recommendations contained in the final report (S/2015/128) of the Panel of Experts under resolution 2144 (2014) on which the Committee had agreed to follow-up action.

On 26 March, the Committee updated its sanctions list, incorporating information provided by the Panel on the existing entries in the list in its final report.

On 14 April, the Committee sent a letter to the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations requesting to be informed about ports, oil fields and installations that are under the control of the Government of Libya, in the light of the measures put in place by resolution 2146 (2014) concerning attempts to illicitly export crude oil from Libya. On 22 April, the Permanent Representative of Libya provided relevant information. He further explained that the National Oil Corporation, represented by its head, who is based

in Benghazi, was the only body authorized to sell oil and gas. On 5 May, the Committee responded to the Permanent Representative of Libya and encouraged the Libyan Government to provide regular updates on this issue to the Committee.

On 16 April, the Committee dispatched a note verbale to all Member States drawing attention to two recommendations of the Panel related to arms brokering activities and cargo inspections, reminding Member States of their obligations under resolution 2213 (2015) regarding cargo inspections and encouraging Member States with the necessary expertise and resources to assist those Member States that lack the legal capacity to implement the assets freeze measure.

On 21 May, the Committee wrote to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Mr. Bernardino León, regarding the facilitation of Panel access to Libya and invited him to brief the Committee. The Committee received a response on 9 June.

Allow me to now provide a brief overview of the Committee's other activities during the reporting period. On 16 April, the Committee approved the slate of proposed candidates to serve on the Panel of Experts on Libya during the period mandated by resolution 2213 (2015).

On 21 May, the Committee received a letter from the Panel containing an update on an investigation relating to the freezing of the assets of an individual, purportedly in relation to the Libya sanctions regime, but who had, in fact, not been designated under the assets freeze measure by the Committee.

On 2 June, the Committee started the consideration of proposals for the designation of two individuals under the assets freeze and travel ban measures. However, these proposals were subsequently put on hold.

On 8 June, the Committee held informal consultations to hear from the Panel of Experts on its work plan. The Committee further discussed the issue of sanctions designations.

Since the Chair's most recent periodic report to the Council (see S/PV.7398) in relation to the arms embargo, the Committee responded in two cases that the items to be supplied did not require approval, given that they constituted non-lethal military equipment under the terms of paragraphs 9 and 10, respectively, of resolution 2095 (2013). In the first instance, the Committee urged the supplying State and the recipient organization to exercise caution and due diligence to guard against possible misuse or diversion of the materiel. In the second, the Committee urged the recipient State to take all the necessary steps to guard against any possible diversion.

Furthermore, no negative decision was taken by the Committee in connection with an arms embargo notification under paragraph 13 (b) of resolution 2009 (2011). The Committee also started the consideration of an arms embargo exemption request, under paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009 (2011), as modified by paragraph 8 of resolution 2174 (2014), which was subsequently put on hold. The Committee further exchanged letters with four Member States in follow-up to a request for guidance on the arms embargo submitted by a Member State regarding non-lethal military materiel it had seized.

In relation to the assets freeze, the Committee responded to a request for guidance regarding an entity on its sanctions list and responded to a note verbale received from a Member State regarding a subsidiary of an entity on its list.

The President: I thank Mr. Ibrahim for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, it is my pleasure to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. Allow me to thank Ambassador Ramlan Bin Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, for his report as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya. I would also like to thank Mr. Bernardino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his important briefing. I congratulate him on his courage, persistence and patience. I would congratulate him and his team in particular for their achievements thus far in a complicated and difficult mission.

Allow me to stress to Mr. León that the Libyan Government supports the efforts that he and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya are making to assist Libyan parties in reaching full agreement on the various issues that would pave the way towards the creation of a Government of national accord, which would stem the bloodshed, enable Libya to emerge from its crisis, guarantee security for Libyan citizens and revive their hope of achieving what they fought for in the revolution of 17 February.

Allow me to begin by addressing the issue of the Sanctions Committee. Regrettably — and I would say this frankly — the Committee has indirectly contributed to continuing instability and further entrenched terrorism in Libya by insisting on an undeclared veto on providing weapons to the Libyan army, in contradiction of paragraph 7 of resolution 2214 (2015), in which the Council:

> "Calls upon the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011) to consider expeditiously requests under paragraph 8 of resolution 2174 (2014) for the transfer or supply of arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, to the Libyan Government for the use by its official armed forces to combat ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya".

The practices of the Sanctions Committee are in full contradiction with the provisions of that paragraph. The Libyan Government's request to the Committee on 26 February 2015 was met with a decision three weeks later by the Committee that it was to be put on hold until further information was provided. On the very next day, 17 March 2015, we provided the information requested by the Committee. We stressed that delivery would be made based on payments over six months. Nevertheless, that request was totally ignored, and we have yet to receive a response from the Committee. This shows clearly that there is a premeditated effort to hamper the efforts of the Libyan Government to strengthen its capacity to combat terrorism and extend its authority to all of Libyan territory.

Regrettably, there is also a communication problem between the Committee and the Libyan Mission. For example, a proposal was made to list Libyan citizens on the sanctions list without officially notifying the Libyan Mission or seeking the opinion of the Libyan Government on the accuracy of the information provided, or indeed as to whether the timing was appropriate for the Security Council to take such a step.

To date we have not indicated that the procedures of the Committee serve the interests of the Libyan people. One month after a request was made for exception from the arms embargo, although we responded to all clarification requests and indeed suggested that observers be dispatched to ensure that weapons would be delivered only to regular army units, we have not obtained agreement. We hope that the Committee will change its practices and take into consideration the fact that transparency and cooperation with the Missions of the States concerned, and, indeed, respect for all the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, is the ideal way to make the sanctions regime effective and to ensure that any new sanctions, if imposed, are imposed correctly.

Libya has suffered four years of security and institutional chaos, a year of civil war and fratricide for no reason other than the wish of those who claim to represent Islam to hold onto power to control various institutions of the Libyan State and its resources. That has led to the displacement of one third of Libyan citizens, the wide-ranging destruction of infrastructure and grave losses in terms of State resources. Undoubtedly, the political agreement reached in Skhirat, Morocco, is a major achievement that paves the way for a peaceful solution that stresses the unity of the Libyan people and the integrity of Libyan soil and that ensures State sovereignty throughout its territory, preserves the rights of all Libyans, ensures the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes in conditions of safety, and closes the door to any potential return of the previous regime or dictatorship, under any form.

Most Libyans undoubtedly welcome the agreement and look forward to the implementation of all its provisions as soon as possible. However, we must not look to the Skhirat agreement as being the goal; it is but a path to a goal, a path that is replete with obstacles that will require major efforts on the part of both the Libyan people and the United Nations to overcome.

There are personal interests, and there are extremist and terrorist groups that certainly do not believe in democracy or the nation State. Some of those remain a core component within the Libyan Dawn militia alliance, which controls and occupies the capital, Tripoli, refuses to sign the agreement and indeed bets on its failure.

Therefore the agreement remains conditioned on the resolve of the international community in convincing all sides and compelling them to commit to the agreement. It depends on the efforts being made to implement it in good faith and providing a safe environment for the work of the Government of national unity. Furthermore, they need to provide support to the Government to accelerate the rebuilding of a strong army, under civilian control, as well as arming the

police and security forces and ensuring their return to work.

Some positive developments have taken place in the past few weeks. They make us more hopeful that common sense will prevail and that there will be a general commitment to the agreement and its implementation. I wish to mention the following points.

First, the Misrata brigades have withdrawn from the areas west of Tripoli. There is a popular movement in the city of Misrata calling for accord and for an end to war. There is a pragmatic, reasonable movement of accord among militias in the western part of the country, a part of which seems to include the beginning of the breakdown of relations between the Libya Dawn militias among extremists and moderates. However, there also seems to be an attempt to abort that movement by stressing the association among moderates and extremists. Indeed, the Italian television station Canale 7 recently broadcast a report stressing that weapons continued to flow across the sea from Misrata to the extremist militias that call themselves the Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council; that group includes Ansar al-Sharia and Al-Qaida elements, and it is a movement that since its creation has rejected democracy. That is clear from the report of the Panel of Experts (S/2015/128).

The second element is an agreement between certain militias in the western region to cease hostilities and to allow the deployment of the army and the police in some areas, as well as an exchange of detainees, and allowing the army to enter three areas without a shot being fired.

Thirdly, there is discord and infighting between the Daesh militias and the Al-Qaida-associated militias in the city of Derna, although they have similar ideologies and they continue to be allied in other areas against the army, particularly in Benghazi.

Unlike the Daesh militias, the Al-Qaida-associated militias are present in a number of Libyan cities, whether as individual militias or within the so-called Mujahedeen Consultative Council. They have strong support in terms of money and weapons from illegitimate authorities in the capital, Tripoli, and certain States, and they obtain funds from the Libyan central bank. There is no doubt that some members of the Security Council are well aware of who leads Al-Qaida in Libya, who provides weapons to Al-Qaida and, indeed, who supports its political leadership. Surely this must end.

The alliance of malevolent forces from abroad has been able to deceive many Libyan youths by raising fears of the return of the previous regime, calling for respect for, and the application of, the rules of Islam, and by tempting them with money. They have made them fodder for a savage war against the State — against their very brothers — with the aim of ensuring that terrorism could ultimately strengthen its hold over the Libyan people, throwing Libyans from their homes, stealing their money and destroying their property, and ultimately occupying the capital. Having failed to achieve any measure of success in the elections, they have also resorted to every means to destroy the elected Assembly of Deputies. Perhaps it is a source of optimism that certain militias and some youths have come to realize the facts of the matter and have begun to disassociate themselves from extremist militias associated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida and even Ansar al-Sharia. We hope that the establishment of a Government of national unity will be a historic opportunity for all Libyans to reaffirm their love for their homeland, their mutual respect and their desire for reconciliation and tolerance with their brothers, and their wish to heal the wounds of the nation and come together to save the country from the mire of terrorism and backwardness and turn towards a better future for all.

Combating terrorism cannot entail just an ad hoc response to attacks and criminal acts by terrorist groups. Fighting terrorism must be based on a clear strategy and policy built upon a real awareness of the threat. That implies mobilizing all material and human resources in every Libyan city in order to combat terrorist groups and thwart all individuals, States and entities that provide assistance and support to terrorists. The time has come for the Security Council to realize the difference between those who fight to uproot terrorism as a strategic choice in the interests of the entire Libyan people — and who say so clearly and honestly, as is the case in Benghazi — and those who have been forced to become involved with terrorist groups because they have been coerced or because they seek to safeguard their spheres of influence, as is the case in Sirte. Every passing day without Libyan unity in combating terrorism, without facilitating the provision of weapons to the Libyan army and without concrete support from the international community to the legitimate authorities, serves as another opportunity for terrorist groups to become stronger by acquiring ever more weapons and drawing in more foreign fighters to Libya.

The longer that the Security Council turns a blind eye to the support provided to terrorist groups in Libya by certain countries, the more the Libyan crisis will escalate, the more the threat to neighbouring States will increase and the more distant the hope for achieving the aspirations of the Libyan people as expressed by way of their revolt against dictatorship.

Regrettably, the extremists and their allies have thus far refused to sign the Skhirat agreement. They have been emboldened by the foot-dragging in the Security Council on the issue of arming the Libyan army, by the fact that they are receiving more money and weapons from their allies abroad and by the emerging desire of the legitimate Government to avoid the use of force to re-enter the capital and extend its authority over all of Libyan territory. We hope this situation will change through the taking of effective and practical steps by the Security Council and the international community as soon as possible to strengthen the capacities of the Libyan army and by becoming directly involved in combating terrorism.

The President: I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m

United Nations S/PV.7486

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 July 2015

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7486th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 16 July 2015, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 16 July 2015, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 7486th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"The President invited Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Ms. Buttenheim."

15-12106 (E) 160715

Please recycle

United Nations S/PV.7487

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7487th meeting

Thursday, 16 July 2015, 11 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Van Bohemen	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
	Chad	Mrs. Alingue
	Chile	Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Šoryté
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-22173 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Mulet.

Mr. Mulet: I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to brief the Council on the outcome of the joint African Union-United Nations mission deployed pursuant to resolution 2182 (2014). The mission was mandated to review progress towards achieving the benchmarks of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia; assess the impact of the temporary surge of troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to 22,126, authorized in resolution 2124 (2013); and make recommendations on the next steps in the military campaign.

Let me begin by echoing the Secretary-General's profound appreciation of the African Union Commission for the admirable spirit of collaboration that prevailed throughout the joint mission. The close partnership demonstrated by the African Union (AU) and the United Nations in that exercise reflects the solidity of our partnership in Somalia and beyond. I also wish to express appreciation to all other partners who participated. Their contributions were central to the success of the joint mission.

The joint mission concluded that the surge of AMISOM uniformed personnel and the logistical support package for the Somali national army authorized in resolution 2124 (2013) enabled AMISOM to realize significant gains against Al-Shabaab. That progress would not have been possible without the continuing sacrifices of AMISOM troops and the Somali national army. Their heroism deserves our collective tribute. However, in the face of these advances, Al-Shabaab has continued to adapt, launching asymmetric attacks and blocking access to some of the newly recovered areas. The group has also expanded its presence in Puntland and become a more significant threat within the subregion.

Against this backdrop, the Secretary-General is of the view that despite the progress made towards achieving the benchmarks endorsed by resolution 2124 (2013), a United Nations peacekeeping mission at this time would be a high-risk undertaking. The Secretary-General has recommended refining the language of the benchmarks to better adapt them to the evolving situation in Somalia without altering the substance endorsed by the Council in resolution 2124 (2013). The benchmarks cover issues related to the political process and the extension of State authority, the threat level, the development of the Somali security institutions, and the support of the Somalis for the deployment of a peacekeeping operation. I would urge the Council to endorse the adjusted benchmarks.

In making its recommendations for the coming period, the joint mission recognized the importance of the international community's engaging in Somalia in accordance with the new federal map. The recommended security strategy is therefore designed to create an enabling environment for the political process to unfold in Mogadishu and the regions during the next critical 18 months. The proposed strategy will be guided by three interlocking objectives: first, enabling the political process at the federal, regional and district levels; secondly, reinitiating offensive operations against Al-Shabaab strongholds as soon as possible, while maintaining continuous and flexible offensive capabilities; and thirdly, enabling consolidation efforts.

These objectives are ambitious and will require strong commitments on the part of all partners involved in Somalia. In particular, the Somali Federal Government, the African Union and troop-contributing countries, the United Nations and key partners must plan and implement the strategy together and fulfil their respective commitments. Only through the dynamic and integrated management of the strategy's implementation can we hope to bring greater and durable security to the Somali people.

At the core of the proposals of the joint mission rests the need to maintain the surge in AMISOM uniformed personnel until the end of 2016, as recommended by the Secretary-General, while improving the efficiency

and effectiveness of AMISOM. We welcome the recommendations of the Chairperson of the African Union, as well as the decision taken by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 521st meeting, on 30 June, to undertake a structured and targeted reconfiguration of AMISOM within the authorized ceiling of uniformed personnel. The reconfiguration mandated by the African Union Peace and Security Council includes the enhancement of the AMISOM police component, the deployment of requisite capabilities, such as quick-reaction and special forces, to enable AMISOM to become more agile and to facilitate cross-sectoral operations and the streamlining of AMISOM command and control. We are encouraged by the ongoing efforts of the African Union Commission to explore concrete avenues to implement AMISOM's reconfiguration.

Ultimately, the proposed security strategy will succeed only if the Somali security institutions are supported and able to progressively assume greater responsibility for their own security. If they are to achieve this goal, it is important to devise an enhanced and more coherent architecture for the delivery by international partners of capacity-building support to the Somali national army and Somalia's overall defence sector. More importantly, we must make a more concerted effort to gradually hand over responsibility for security to the Somalis.

The adoption on 23 April of the Guulwade Plan for the development of the Somali national army was a critical step forward. It is essential that all Member States abide by their responsibility to effectively coordinate and fully share information on their bilateral contributions to the security sector through the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). Such a renewed spirit of partnership and transparency is a prerequisite for ensuring that our collective resources achieve optimal results. The continued provision of the non-lethal support package to the Somali national army authorized in resolution 2124 (2013) will also be essential to enabling its continued engagement in joint operations alongside AMISOM.

A gradual shift of efforts towards establishing and capacitating the Somali police force is equally critical. We must accelerate the development of effective and accountable Somali police forces, particularly in the regions, with a focus on maintaining citizen security. This is important for buttressing State-building efforts, freeing up military capacity and avoiding the militarization of law and order functions. AMISOM and UNSOM have an important role to play in this regard, including in Puntland.

The finalization of a realistic police plan, currently being prepared under the structures of the New Deal Compact, is essential. Short-term assistance to jump-start the establishment of police in the regions is needed alongside the recommended increase in AMISOM police, which is expected to provide operational assistance, mentoring and training. That is why the Secretary-General recommends the delivery of an immediate non-lethal support package to the Somali police forces to bridge the gap between assistance that can be provided today and the longer-term support that will be provided under the New Deal. The package would provide the rudimentary infrastructure, equipment and sustainment items required to jump-start basic policing operations in the regions, including Puntland.

We are very concerned about the evolution of Al-Shabaab's threat in Puntland and the potential impact of the situation in Yemen. The security of Puntland should not be forgotten by the international community. We therefore recommend extending the non-lethal support package to the Somali national army, as approved in resolution 2124 (2013), to 3,000 Puntland forces on an exceptional basis until the end of 2016, but only upon completion of their integration into the Somali national army as well, as their formal inclusion in the Guulwade Plan.

We are concerned about the unfolding influence of Al-Shabaab in Kenya, as well as the rest of the subregion. A comprehensive approach is a logical way by which to counter this threat, integrated with a security strategy to combat violent extremism both in Somalia and across the region.

Following the joint mission, Al-Shabaab mounted a number of attacks in Somalia that coincided with the holy month of Ramadan. These renewed efforts are a source of concern, which further reinforces the need for the overall security effort in Somalia to become more nimble in order to degrade an increasingly adaptable Al-Shabaab. We are encouraged by the commitments expressed by the African Union and by the troop- and police-contributing countries to work towards that objective. Collective action to take forward the recommendations of the joint mission is urgently needed.

The President: I thank Mr. Mulet for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Kullane (Somalia): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. I acknowledge the briefing given to the Security Council by Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmund Mulet

Somalia has achieved significant progress in the past two years since the Council reviewed the previous benchmarking report. The Council was briefed recently, but I would like to highlight the fact that we reached a new milestone last week with the election of a President of the Galmuduug Interim Regional Assembly and the confirmation by Parliament of the members of the National Independent Electoral Commission and of the Boundaries and Federation Commission. Those achievements, especially on the federal front, would not have been possible without the military gains of 2013 and 2014, which opened up political space. And that is thanks to the sacrifices of the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

However, our military efforts are not over. Al-Shabaab no longer controls vast areas of the country, but it is still capable of conducting attacks against the Somali National Army and AMISOM. We are concerned about the degradation it has caused during the period of Ramadan. Just last Friday, Al-Shabaab conducted an attack in Mogadishu. Once again, the attack was repelled, but we need to be able to degrade Al-Shabaab's capacity to conduct such attacks.

It is important to support AMISOM and maintain its troop levels in Somalia, as well as to provide it with enablers to improve its efficiency. More important, we will be able to stabilize Somalia in the long term and to withdraw international troops only by building a strong security sector in the country. We have achieved some progress this year, especially with the adoption of the Gulwade plan for the development of the Somali National Army. The non-lethal support package to the Somali National Army has been very helpful. I welcome the recommendation to extend it until the end of 2016, and to expand it to the 3,000 troops from Puntland.

It is also now time for us to step up our work to develop the police sector in Somalia and to focus on community security. Public security in a country should be provided by the police, and that is the ultimate goal in Somalia. It should start happening now with more support provided to the police, especially outside of Mogadishu, where we need to re-establish police services.

The Somali Government also welcomes the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the entire international community begin gradual hand-over to the Somali security institutions. While we are mindful that the full achievement of that objective will take time, it needs to become the guiding light of the international community's efforts on the security front.

Finally, the problem of armed violence in Somalia will not be resolved by working on the security front alone. We need the Council's support to build the capacity of Somali institutions in Mogadishu and in the interim regional administrations. We also need to provide opportunities to the youth of the country, to develop infrastructure and to progressively tackle the roots of violence. That is a longer-term ambition, and the Council's support for the recommendations of the benchmarking report is an indispensable building block.

The President: I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7488

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7488th meeting

Monday, 20 July 2015, 9 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. McCully	(New Zealand)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Non-proliferation

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-22384 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/547, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I would like to thank all Council members for their sponsorship of the draft resolution, which is now a presidential text. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2231 (2015).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the vote.

Ms. Power (United States of America): Today we have adopted resolution 2231 (2015), enshrining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed to six days ago in Vienna.

By now, many are familiar with the basic tenets of the deal, which, if implemented, would cut off all pathways to fissile material for a nuclear weapon for the Islamic Republic of Iran, while putting in place a rigorous inspection and transparency regime for verifying Iran's compliance. The Plan of Action will cut the number of Iran's centrifuges by two thirds and prevent Iran from producing weapons-grade plutonium. Iran will also get rid of 98 per cent of its stockpile of enriched uranium, going from a quantity that could produce approximately 10 nuclear weapons to a fraction of what is needed for a single nuclear weapon. The deal will quadruple Iran's break-out time — the time needed to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for one nuclear weapon — from the current estimate of two to three months to one year. It will also require Iran and all States to comply with legally binding restrictions on nuclear and conventional arms-related and ballistic missile-related activities.

Ninety days from today, when our respective capitals and legislatures have had a chance to carefully review the deal's provisions, the commitments in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action should take effect. Sanctions relief will begin only when Iran verifiably completes the initial steps necessary to bring its nuclear programme in line with the deal. It is important today to step back from the Plan of Action to its larger lessons — lessons about enforcing global norms, the essential role of diplomacy, the need for ongoing vigilance and the absolute necessity of the unity of the Security Council; lessons that have implications both for ensuring implementation of the deal and for tackling other crises that confront us today.

This year we mark 70 years since the founding of the United Nations, which its second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, famously said "was not created to bring us to heaven, but to save us from hell". In the wake of the devastating loss of life in the Second World War and the immeasurable suffering it caused, representatives of nations around the world came together with an aim — to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

The first lesson we can learn from how this deal was secured is that it is not enough to agree to global norms, such as that against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Council and all the countries of the United Nations must actually take steps to enforce global norms. In 2006, in response to Iran's efforts to develop a nuclear-weapons programme, the Security Council put in place one of toughest sanctions regimes in its history, which was complemented by robust sanctions imposed by the United States, several other countries and the European Union (EU). Faced

with Iran's ongoing non-compliance, the United Nations tightened its sanctions in 2007, 2008 and 2010. The sanctions regime played a critical role in helping to lay the groundwork for the talks that would give rise to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The second lesson is one that was most eloquently articulated more than 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy and echoed last week by President Obama: "Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate". Given the devastating human toll of war, we have a responsibility to test diplomacy. In 2010, when then-United States Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice spoke in the Chamber after the Council strengthened sanctions on Iran, she cited the ways in which Iran had violated its commitments to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its obligations under prior Security Council resolutions. Yet she also said:

> "The United States reaffirms our commitment to engage in robust, principled and creative diplomacy. We will remain ready to continue diplomacy with Iran and its leaders" (*S/PV.6335, p.5*).

And when a credible opening emerged for negotiations, that is exactly what the United States and the other members of the P-5+1 — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia and China — and the EU did.

There were many occasions over these past two years of grueling negotiations when any party could have walked away. The distances just seemed too great, the history between us searing and the resulting mistrust defining. But the United States and our partners knew that we had a responsibility to try to overcome these obstacles and resolve the crisis peacefully. One only has to spend a week in the Security Council — any week — and hear accounts of the bloodshed and heartbreak in Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Darfur, Mali, Libya or any other conflict-ridden part of the world to be reminded of the consequences of war. Sometimes, as bother the Charter of the United Nations and history make clear, the use of force is required, but we all have a responsibility to work aggressively in diplomatic channels to try to secure our objectives peacefully.

This nuclear deal does not change our profound concern about human rights violations committed by the Iranian Government or about the instability Iran fuels beyond its nuclear programmes — from its support for terrorist proxies to its repeated threats against Israel to its other destabilizing activities in the region. That is why the United States will continue to invest in the security of our allies in the region and why we will maintain our own sanctions related to Iran's support for terrorism, its ballistic-missiles programme and its human rights violations.

And this deal will in no way diminish the United States outrage over the unjust detention of United States citizens by the Government of Iran. Let me use this occasion to call once again on Iran to immediately release all unjustly detained Americans: Saeed Abedini, imprisoned for his religious beliefs; Amir Hekmati, falsely accused of espionage; and Jason Rezaian, a *Washington Post* correspondent who just a year ago was covering the nuclear negotiations. I also call on Iran to help locate Robert Levinson, who has been missing from Iran since 2007. No family should be forced to endure the anguish that the Abedini, Hekmati, Rezaian and Levinson families feel, and we will not rest until they are home where they belong.

But denying Iran a nuclear weapon is important not in spite of these other destabilizing actions, but rather because of them. As President Obama has pointed out,

> "that is precisely why we are taking this step — because an Iran armed with a nuclear weapon would be far more destabilizing and far more dangerous to our friends and to the world".

So while this deal does not address many of our profound concerns, if implemented it would make the world safer and more secure.

Yet while reaching this deal matters, our work is far from finished. In the months and even years ahead, the international community must apply the same rigour to ensuring compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as we did to drafting and negotiating it. This is my third point — implementation is everything. And that is precisely why so many verification measures have been built into this deal. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will grant the IAEA access when it needs it and where it needs it, including 24/7 containment and surveillance of Iran's declared nuclear facilities. Inspectors will have access to the entire supply chain that supports Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, from mining and milling to conversion, enrichment, fuel manufacturing, nuclear reactors and spent fuel. If the terms of the deal are not followed, all sanctions that have been suspended can be snapped back into place, and if the United States or any other participant in the Plan of

Action believes that Iran is violating its commitments, we can trigger a process in the Security Council that will reinstate the United Nations sanctions.

The fourth and final lesson we can learn from the process that led us here today is that when our nations truly unite to confront global crises, our impact grows exponentially. The founders of the United Nations understood that concept intrinsically and enshrined it in the Charter, which calls on each of us "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security". In the twenty-first century, it is now an axiom that our nations can do more to advance peace, justice and human dignity by working together than any single country can achieve on its own, and that, indeed, only when we act as united nations can we address the world's most intractable problems.

Although we do not see that unity enough here at the United Nations, the countries of the United Nations did largely unite behind the cause of preventing nuclear proliferation in Iran, and it was the persistent multilateral pressure that came out of this unity, combined with a critical openness to seeking a diplomatic solution that gave the P-5+1 and EU negotiators the leverage they needed to get the deal that would advance our collective security.

In conclusion, the only proper measure of this deal and all of the tireless efforts that went into it will be its implementation. This deal gives Iran an opportunity to prove to the world that it intends to pursue a nuclear programme solely for peaceful purposes. If Iran seizes that opportunity; if it abides by the commitments that it agreed to in this deal, as it did throughout the period of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action negotiations; if it builds upon the mutual respect and diligence that its negotiators demonstrated in Lausanne and Vienna; and if it demonstrates a willingness to respect the international standards upon which our collective security rests, then it will find the international community and the United States willing to provide a path out of isolation and towards greater engagement.

We hope that Iran's Government will choose that path, not only because it would make the United States, its allies and the world more secure — which it will — but also because it will more fully empower the Iranian people, whose potential all of us should wish to see unlocked. But let us just think for one moment how much more effective the Council would be if we were to bring the same approach to tackling other threats to international peace and security today: rigourous enforcement; a willingness to be relentless in our pursuit of tough, principled diplomacy, even when the odds seem stacked against us; a commitment not just to resolutions but to their full implementation; and a willingness to overcome divisions to strengthen our collective security.

If we did all that, we can only imagine what we might be able to achieve to mitigate the horrific suffering in Syria today, and what progress the United Nations could make were we to bring the same political will to advancing the human rights of the world's most vulnerable people as we have to cutting off Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon. How many more girls worldwide would be in classrooms? How many more warlords and dictators worldwide would be behind bars? It is humbling to imagine how much more we could achieve. It should motivate us to do far more.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): A few minutes ago, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2231 (2015), on the Iranian nuclear issue, endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached on that matter by the P-5+1 — China, France, the Russian Federation, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America — in Vienna on on 14 July.

In spite of ups and downs, the efforts made with regard to the Iran nuclear issue over more than the past 10 years have finally resulted in a political solution. With the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the international nuclear non-proliferation regime has been safeguarded. Iran has made a political commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, while at the same time it has been given the legitimate right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A new chapter has also begun on Iran's relationship with all sides.

The conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action brings far-reaching inspiration to contemporary international relations. First, the setting up of a new type of international relationship centred on mutual benefit and win-win outcomes has a strong vitality. The Iranian nuclear issueconcerns the immediate — and even core — interests of all sides. Without a multi-win and all-win spirit, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action would not have been achieved. Even if it had been, it would not have lasted for long.

Secondly, it is essential to stay the course in seeking political solutions to major issues. However the difficult the process may be, a political solution

is always the only practical and viable path. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action also serves as a successful example of how to address other regional and international hot-spot issues through political and diplomatic means.

Thirdly, it is possible to achieve success so long as confidence is maintained, political will is demonstrated and tireless efforts are made in the course of seeking political solutions. The Council's adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), which endorses the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is an important step in the process of implementing the agreement. This is a good beginning. Implementing the agreement over the next 10 years will be even more important, during which it will be essential to adhere to the following principles.

First, the Council's resolution and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action must be implemented in a balanced, precise and comprehensive manner. All sides should effectively fulfil the commitments they have made and seriously and effectively implement all the provisions of the agreement. Secondly, in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, it is essential to appropriately resolve the differences that may arise during the implementation process, demonstrate goodwill and stay the course for the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Thirdly, it is necessary to constantly take stock of experiences and good practices during the implementation process, maintain the effectiveness of the relevant mechanism and make positive efforts to maintain world peace, promote regional stability and improve relations among all sides.

China has all along worked constructively for fruitful negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue. We will continue to make new contributions to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in a responsible manner.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), which marks a historic moment both for international peace and security and for the Security Council. Following 12 years of a nuclear crisis, after many months of intensive months of negotiation, an agreement with Iran was finally reached in Vienna on 14 July. First, the agreement charts a demanding path towards establishing trust in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. It also serves to confirm the relevance and robustness of the non-proliferation regime. The agreement will also make a contribution to regional and international stability, as an Iran with nuclear weapons would further destabilize a region already experiencing many crises. Conversely, with this agreement we will together be able to write a new chapter in the history of the region. Above all, the authority of the Council and of our collective security system has been strengthened thanks to this agreement. If the commitments are upheld, one of the most serious crises of the past 20 years will have been settled peaceably through dialogue and negotiation.

This agreement is first and foremost a triumph of method. As the Council is aware, from the outset of the crisis, in 2003, along with Germany and the United Kingdom, France gave priority to dialogue through what came to be known as a dual approach, namely, negotiations and sanctions. We believed that, without firmness and pressure from the international community, calls for dialogue would have been in vain. Our American, Russian and Chinese partners, and eventually the rest of the Security Council, rallied around that approach. In that way, we were able to establish the framework for dialogue that, 12 years later, made it possible to arrive at an outcome.

This agreement is also the result of firmness. Throughout the negotiations, France did not waver from its position of being in favour of civilian nuclear programme for Iran but against a nuclear weapon. Against that backdrop, France resolutely joined in the search for a negotiated solution. That course of constructive resolve made it possible to arrive at a robust and binding agreement that is also precise, complete and credible and whose full implementation will serve to address the expectations of the international community and the concerns of Iran's neighbours.

It is now up to the Security Council to endorse the Vienna agreement and act as guarantor of its implementation. Although the time for negotiations has come to an end, now is the time for action and vigilance. The process that has been put in place includes clear and exact limits on Iran's nuclear programme, a robust oversight and verification system and the possibility for automatically reinstating sanctions in the event of Iran's violation of its commitments. It is Iran's responsibility, in line with the timetable that has been established, to implement the entirety of the measures agreed. The International Atomic Energy Agency will play a key role with regard to oversight and verification, as well as in informing the Council as to Iran's adherence to its commitments. Along with its partners, France will

rigorously and in good faith monitor compliance with this agreement. We will judge Iran's by its actions in making this agreement a success. The role and unity of the Council will also be a determining factor. The lifting of Security Council sanctions is preconditioned on Iran's respect for its commitments. The Council must continue to exercise vigilance throughout the period covered by the agreement. Over the next 15 years, it must be prepared to reinstate sanctions in the event of shortcomings on the part of Iran.

Together, with eyes wide open, we are embarking today upon a new chapter. But the most important part is yet to be written, and the coming weeks will be decisive.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Today's resolution 2231 (2015), adopted unanimously in support of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, marks a fundamental shift in the Security Council's consideration of the situation regarding the Iranian nuclear programme, with a view towards resolving the matter once and for all. By creating a new reality, we are not just turning a page but beginning a new chapter in the work of the Council. We expect that all countries will quickly adapt to the new conditions and contribute to the successful implementation of the agreement.

The Security Council, and the international community it represents, has supported a clear choice to resolve the situation regarding the Iranian nuclear programme through political and diplomatic means based on international law — first and foremost the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. A choice has been made in favour of mutual respect, stability and cooperation. We are pleased that that decision has been based on a gradual and reciprocal approach, which our country consistently supported throughout all stages of the negotiations.

The Council has today confirmed the inalienable right of Iran to develop a peaceful nuclear programme, including to enrich uranium, while also ensuring comprehensive oversight by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This resolution also guarantees lifting the burden of sanctions on Iran in the framework of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action though a clear and transparent mechanism that will be made operational through concrete steps based on confidence in Iran's nuclear programme, including IAEA verification.

A reliable filter has been created in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution 2231 (2015) that will guarantee that all disputes and disagreements that could arise in the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will be subject to collective consideration in the framework of the joint commission, with the participation of the P-5+1, Iran and the European Union. Moreover, the Security Council maintains a leading role on issues regarding the implementation of the Plan of Action. During negotiations we knew that the Plan of Action would be subject to Security Council approval, and we therefore gave special attention to ensuring the prerogatives of this organ and respect for the role of all its members, including non-permanent members, in taking decisions that are essential to implementing the agreement. We are grateful to the IAEA for its readiness to assume responsibility for monitoring and verification of Iran's obligations.

We hope that the agreement with Iran will help other countries of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf to refrain from destabilizing moves, including in the nuclear sphere, and to ensure that the region does not enter a new arms race. We are creating conditions conducive to the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and to the search for common approaches among countries of the Middle East to addressing regional security issues and uniting their collective efforts in the fight against the terrorist threat. In a statement following the conclusion of the negotiations, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, underscored that Russia will do all it can to ensure that the Vienna agreements become fully operational in order to promote the strengthening of international and regional security, the global regime of nuclear non-proliferation, and the mobilization of a broad regional coalition to counteract the terrorist threat.

We underscore that the work of all the negotiating teams deserve the highest praise. We commend in particular the Governments of Austria and Switzerland, which ensured optimal conditions for guaranteeing the success of the negotiations. We would also like to praise the consideration of our friends from Kazakhstan, who organized several rounds of negotiations.

Reaching an agreement to resolve the issues surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme demonstrates that where there exists a political will based on realism and respect for legitimate mutual

interests, the international community can resolve the most complex tasks. All participants in the negotiations demonstrated their readiness to engage in collective efforts. A reserve of trust has been built up that will be very useful in the course of implementing the agreement. We hope that this invaluable experience of collective efforts, unburdened by ideological geopolitical calculations, will also be used to resolve other crisis situations where, perhaps, success will be secured exclusively through joint work. Russia is ready for this.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015). The resolution endorses the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed in Vienna last week. It creates the baseline from which to recalibrate our broader relationship with Iran, and it is an opportunity for us all to re-engage economically and culturally with an important regional Power as it takes on its proper responsibility for improving regional stability. Today's adoption is an important milestone in the history of the Council, the culmination of negotiations that have taken place over more than a decade. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is a landmark achievement, and I join my colleagues in expressing my congratulations and gratitude to everyone involved in that process.

In the Council, we often call for the peaceful resolution of disputes. In some cases, progress is slow and situations remain unresolved, but while in the past we have met to call on Iran to respond to our concerns, today we can be proud that Iran has committed to taking actions to address those concerns. I am delighted that the Council has endorsed the deal unanimously. It is a good deal — good for the United Kingdom and the international community, good for the region, and good for Iran. If implemented fully, the resolution will address our proliferation concerns through comprehensive commitments on the part of Iran to limit its nuclear programme — commitments that will be verified through extensive monitoring and transparency. As soon as Iran takes steps on its nuclear programme, it will receive comprehensive economic and financial sanctions relief, enabling it to trade more freely again with the rest of the world. Under full implementation of the deal, Iran will be treated just like any other non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We now need to look ahead and make sure that we all deliver on our commitments as we implement the agreement. That will not be easy. There will inevitably be difficulties and unforeseen obstacles, but we must live up to our commitments, act in good faith and try wherever possible to resolve together any problems in implementing the deal. The role of the Security Council will be important. We will maintain oversight in the implementation of the agreement. We also need to take significant steps to support its implementation. In some areas, that will involve novel working methods for the Council. We will have to be flexible and imaginative, and get this right.

The deal gives us the chance to change the relationship between Iran and the Security Council, and change for the better the dynamics in the region and beyond. We can now start the work of rebuilding a deficit of trust that has arisen over decades; we can start to normalize our relationships, which hold great promise for the future. We will also encourage Iran to play a transparent and constructive role in regional affairs, including in the current crises in Yemen and Syria. Iran has an opportunity to make a positive decision about its responsibilities in the region.

The world is now a safer place in the knowledge that Iran cannot build a nuclear bomb. I encourage all of us in the Council to show the same determination, courage and vision in supporting this project and pursuing our other top priorities, as the negotiators on all sides have demonstrated in getting us the agreement we have endorsed here today.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Today we celebrate the triumph of diplomacy following an arduous and complex negotiating process between the E-3+3 and Iran. I join in congratulating all participants on their efforts and commitments. I congratulate Iran, the United States, Russia, China and our partners in the European Union, and of course the United Kingdom, France and Germany. They have demonstrated us that nothing is impossible where there is political will. They have also given us new impetus in addressing new challenges to international peace and security, as we do daily here in the Council. Such challenges can sometimes seem insurmountable in the absence of inspiration such as that provided in this case today.

Plutarch, writing in *Parallel Lives* in the late first century A.D., ascribes to Alexander the Great a statement that we here today could also endorse, to the effect that dealing with the Persians on the basis of dialogue rather than confrontation serves our

interests and benefits us and them. The benefits will be undeniable — Iran can return to normality and the world will be a safer place.

We are also seeing a demonstration of the Security Council's effectiveness. In adopting resolution 1737 (2006), on 23 December 2006, the Council showed its determination to place limits on Iran's development of sensitive nuclear technologies that could serve to support its nuclear and missile programmes. Today, the Council followed through on that determination. The Council's approach to the Iranian issue has undoubtedly been decisive in reaching the agreement and shows how, when we act united and with determination, we can make the Council the most valuable guardian of international peace and security. Moreover, in a symbiotic process, the more effective this body is, the stronger it is and the more capable it is to address future challenges.

Before us now are opportunities and challenges. The opportunities we now have stem from a balanced agreement that strengthens the non-proliferation system and offers an outstanding opportunity that should not be missed. We also have the responsibility to take advantage of the synergies the agreement offers. To that end, we must ensure that the process is brought to an optimal conclusion. Among the opportunities presented, we must highlight the beneficial effect that the process could have on the region because it will bring about an element of stability, as the representative of the United Kingdom just said. We must take advantage of this as as a valuable basis to work towards combating the threat of terrorism and bringing about the end of the conflict in the Middle East.

But there are also challenges, which is why we must implement what has been agreed to in a timely and effective manner. Today, the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union will meet to take a decision about the Union's role under the terms of the agreement. Now that the hardest part has been achieved, we here in the Council must continue to show unity and determination in duly implementing the agreement and establish follow-up and monitoring mechanisms that will replace current ones. We must find the most effective way of monitoring the restrictions that will remain in place for a certain amount of time.

Accordingly, as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), I feel deeply involved in this process and I can guarantee that I will make every effort to uphold my role throughout the transition phase, being as pragmatic as possible and assisting Member States in the full implementation of the agreement in their respective relationships with the current regime. As I said on the day that the United States submitted the draft resolution, the greatest source of happiness for me would be to see the 1737 Committee simply disappear, as that would mean we are fulfilling the message the tapestry that floats above this Chamber delivers on a daily basis: the 1737 Committee, like the phoenix, will die only to light up a future of peace and security. As we forge that future the Council can count on the full support and commitment of Spain.

Mrs. Kawar (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Jordan welcomes the agreement reached on the Iranian nuclear issue, as well as the political and diplomatic efforts made by China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union to achieve it.

Jordan has always called for a peaceful diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Therefore, Jordan supports any steps taken to entrench regional and international peace and security and stability, particularly in the current conditions prevailing in the Middle East. We hope that the agreement signed between the P5+1 and Iran will promote further confidence among the States of the region. We also hope that it will have positive repercussions on all States of the region and on the security and stability of their peoples. And we hope that it will serve as a constructive step towards preventing a new arms race in the Middle East region and that it will rid the region of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, we stress the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in following up and implementing the agreement and providing the Security Council with regular reports on Iran's implementation in accordance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We express our satisfaction at the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), by which the Security Council endorses the agreement reached between Iran and the E3/EU+3 on the Iranian nuclear programme. We voted in favour of the resolution because we value the agreement, as it contributes to resolving differences on the programme's scope and prospects and reaffirms the right of all States

party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We hope that the significant verification elements in the agreement will make it possible to build confidence among the parties, preserve the integrity of the multilateral non-proliferation regime and strengthen the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thereby promoting greater cooperation to safeguard peace and stability in the Middle East.

The agreement has served to reaffirm the irreplaceable value of negotiation and diplomacy in conducting international relations. The responsibility, flexibility and creativity that all the parties demonstrated show the will and commitment to peace and cooperation, which are the guiding principles of our Organization.

At this historic juncture, from our seat in the Council and on the Board of Governors of the IAEA, we will provide our full support to the effective and smooth implementation of this agreement. We therefore hope to contribute to building confidence and creating better conditions for the maintenance of regional and global security.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela co-sponsored and voted in favour of resolution 2231 (2015), which ratifies the agreements reached between the P5+1, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are convinced that through this resolution the Security Council is giving its firm backing to an important agreement that ushers in a new era in relations among the various States.

Venezuela welcomes this important agreement and congratulates all the delegations that participated in the negotiations process that led to the signing of this important document — on the courage, persistence, political will and commitment they showed throughout the 18 months of intense negotiations. The results achieved reveal the importance of political and diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the impasse, in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations. It also shows once again that, where there is political commitment among the parties, peace and dialogue impose themselves in the face of warmongering speeches that fuel distrust and confrontation.

This agreement is the triumph of diplomacy over war. The full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will guarantee the Islamic Republic of Iran the right to exercise its sovereign right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with a view to promoting its technological and energy independence. We are also convinced that this instrument will contribute positively to the birth of a new phase of diplomatic relations between Iran and the States party to the agreement, based on mutual trust and respect and a collective commitment with a view to strengthening international peace and security.

We are pleased that the agreements reached will in the end allow for the final lifting of the Security Council sanctions regime as well as other unilateral coercive measures unlawfully applied in other areas related to Iran's nuclear programme, which include measures restricting access to economic, commercial, financial, technological, energy goods and services, inter alia, which has had a negative impact on the Iranian people and other States in their cooperative relations with Iran. We reaffirm our full support and implementation of this historic effort with a view to achieving the welfare and progress of the Iranian people. We hope that the agreement reached will mark the beginning of a far-reaching political process that paves the way to progress towards a peaceful solution to the other conflicts taking place in the Middle East — including regarding the Palestinian issue, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and extremist terrorism — that are threatening peace and stability in the region.

In conclusion, we believe that the international community must now support and demonstrate the same political will with a view to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in conformity with the package of measures agreed at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is necessary and of major importance in achieving peace and stability in that troubled region.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor to explain Malaysia's vote on resolution 2231 (2015), which the Council just adopted and which we co-sponsored and voted in favour of. At the outset, Malaysia wishes to congratulate the delegations responsible for reaching this historic agreement, namely, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United

States, the European Union and, of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We place on record our appreciation to those delegations for their commitment and for remaining steadfast in upholding key principles of constructive engagement, dialogue and diplomacy in good faith throughout the difficult negotiations. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, endorsed by the Council via resolution 2231 (2015), is a positive step that augurs well for international efforts aimed at enhancing nuclear security. We look forward to the immediate and constructive implementation of the Plan of Action by all the parties concerned.

The agreement reached on 14 July is a landmark understanding that, in our view, reaffirms the principle of the peaceful use of nuclear technology and, at the same time, appears to strike a balance in terms of concerns about proliferation as provided for under the regime established under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Malaysia remains convinced that the NPT regime continues to occupy a role of central importance in the efforts to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as forming an essential foundation for the pursuit of general and complete nuclear disarmament. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are two sides of the same coin. In that connection, we reiterate the call upon all the nuclear-weapon States to reinvigorate efforts to implement their obligations under the disarmament pillar of the NPT regime, including by taking steps to reduce their nuclear weapon stockpiles and decrease the operational readiness of the nuclear weapons systems, among others.

As a member of the Council and of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Malaysia looks forward to working with other Council members in the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with a view to working towards the eventual lifting of all United Nations sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Malaysia hopes that the successful implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will positively contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East region and beyond.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): We would like to begin by congratulating the parties — the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union — on the historic agreement reached last week on the Iranian nuclear programme. The agreement is a victory for diplomacy. It proves that, no matter how difficult a subject is, with commitment and determination, negotiations can produce results.

Nigeria voted in favour of resolution 2231 (2015) because we are convinced that it will aid in the process of implementing the agreement. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action clearly spells out the obligations of the parties. We urge them to implement the plan transparently and in good faith.

We takes this opportunity once more to reaffirm our support for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): The Angolan delegation is very honoured to take part in this meeting of the Security Council and to have cast its vote on the historic resolution 2231 (2015), which represents the triumph of multilateralism, negotiation and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The agreement that the Council has just endorsed is clear evidence that, however complex or difficult it might be, negotiated solutions can be achieved for any political problem if the parties show political will and a commitment to seek peaceful solutions and to avoid recourse to military means.

The present agreement has an additional and special virtue, since, for many years, diplomacy has been defeated in all Middle East disputes. The United States, China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran deserve all of our praise for being able to reach such an outstanding achievement by concluding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as a contribution to the building of confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We hope that implementation of the Plan of Action will produce the best possible results, that the national Parliaments of the signatory States will give their endorsement to the agreement, that the International Atomic Energy Agency will assume its essential and independent role in verifying compliance with the Safeguards Agreement and that the sanctions imposed on Iran will be lifted in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

It was our expectation — or, if preferred, our wishful thinking — that the very difficult and thoughtful negotiating process would allow for the highest possible degree of understanding of each

other's views and expectations, thus making possible the building of mutual confidence and triggering a game change, namely, an innovative factor that might create a new dynamic for the whole region. However, in the current environment in the Middle East, the closing — or the opening — of the distracting Iranian nuclear programme, after such a long and complex negotiating process between the main world Powers, the permanent members of the Security Council and an influential regional Power, is a limited outcome. Now we want more. The people of the region deserve more. And the agreements so far reached should be followed by other outstanding initiatives that address very serious regional issues.

It is our view that the permanent members of the Council should deploy further efforts by taking advantage of the negotiating dynamics opened up by the Iranian nuclear programme, so as to reach out to regional Powers and countries of the region to address and resolve proxy wars and serious crisis situations affecting the region, namely, the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Syrian war, the conflict in Yemen, the Palestinian issue and the establishment of a political framework to repair the rift between Sunni and Shiite majority countries in the Middle East.

In our view, beyond the non-proliferation and arms control issues, the establishment of new dynamics in the entire Middle East region would be the greatest accomplishment and most valuable legacy of the process to which we are giving a boost today by adopting this landmark resolution.

Mrs. Jakubonė (Lithuania): Lithuania welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed by the European Union (EU), the E3/EU+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 14 July. We strongly believe that this deal, based on Iran's implementation of essential changes to its nuclear programme in return for a phased lifting of sanctions, offers a real, durable and verifiable path to resolve a dispute spanning over a decade. It also marks a victory for multilateralism and international diplomacy, as it proves that sustained pressure by the international community, including through United Nations sanctions and their full implementation by Member States, can create conditions that bring parties to the negotiating table and keep them engaged in good faith and in the spirit of compromise.

Lithuania applauds the perseverance and determination of all those involved in that extraordinary diplomatic endeavour. In particular, we acknowledge the instrumental coordinating role played by both former and current European Union High Representatives for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Since the core objective of the deal is to ensure the international community's trust in a peaceful measure of Iran's nuclear programme, the full implementation of comprehensive transparency and verification measures will be indispensable in ensuring its success. Iran's agreement to implement the Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement as well as further transparency measures foreseen in the Plan of Action will provide the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with powerful tools to implement continuous monitoring and will grant the Agency extensive access to Iran's nuclear sites. We also welcome the road map agreed on by the IAEA and Iran on 14 July that provides a specific time frame to clarify past and present outstanding issues by the end of this year.

In addition to the rigorous verification measures, Iran will remain under the legally binding Charter-based obligations to comply with the arms embargo and refrain from ballistic missile-related activities. The travel ban and assets freeze will also remain in place, while the Council will continue to be actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action. Finally, all current sanctions will be reinstated in the event of significant non-performance by Iran with regard to its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In conclusion, Lithuania is convinced that, if implemented fully and in good faith, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will become a crucial element in building trust between Iran and the international community, open the door to a steady improvement of relations with Iran and positively contribute to regional and international peace and stability.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): Chad would like to join previous speakers in welcoming the signing in Vienna on 14 July by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the P5+1 countries and the European Union of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear programme. Chad takes note of the parties' joint statement aimed at promoting transparency and creating an atmosphere conducive to the implementation of the

Plan of Action. Chad encourages them to implement their commitments fully and in good faith.

It is important to recall that the Plan of Action, which the Security Council has just endorsed in resolution 2231 (2015), is the outcome of a long process. The text of the agreement is voluminous, with more than 100 pages and five annexes. The complexity and length of the negotiations clearly demonstrate that the parties were open-minded and persevered to overcome doubts and difficulties throughout the process. Chad would like to congratulate all the leaders, politicians, diplomats and experts from all parties for the courage, determination, tact and wisdom that they demonstrated in reaching a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear programme. We share their satisfaction in having managed to reach an agreement that had not, in past negotiations, been reached for more than 12 years. We support future efforts to implement the agreement reached on 14 July. Chad is convinced of the virtues of dialogue and peace, which is why we voted in favour of the resolution just adopted. Its unanimous adoption clearly symbolizes the triumph of diplomacy and the noble principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations that call for the peaceful resolution of differences without the use of threats or force.

Within the framework of that approach, we pay tribute to the leadership of the United States and its leaders' fresh approach that focuses on dialogue, peace and stability around the world. In that regard, we completely agree with what President Obama said when receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, on 10 December 2009 in Oslo:

> "sanctions without outreach — condemnation without discussion — can carry forward only a crippling status quo.

Chad expects that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will monitor respect for the agreements on guarantees and the implementation of the cooperation framework agreed with Iran on 11 November 2013, as well as the road map for clarification of the past and current outstanding issues. With that in mind, Chad encourages the IAEA and Iran to cooperate fully to ensure the comprehensive, successful implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We also hope that the sanctions and measures implemented pursuant to the relevant provisions of the various Council resolutions adopted between 2006 and 2015 pertaining to Iran will be completely lifted after the Security Council receives an IAEA report that confirms the adoption by that country of the implementation of all measures outlined in the Plan of Action.

We would like to reiterate that, like all the other States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Iran is entitled to develop, conduct research and produce nuclear energy for civilian purposes. We hope that the agreement signed on 14 July will make it possible for Iran to join the community of nations and ensure its contribution to the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation. In a world threatened by conflict, every contribution should be welcomed in maintaining international peace and security.

In conclusion, we should like to reiterate our encouragement and support to all parties of the 14 July Vienna agreement. We call on them to respect the commitments undertaken and to continue to engage in dialogue until the end of the implementation of the Plan of Action. Chad, which signed and ratified the Treaty of Pelindaba, which makes Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone, dreams of a world rid of these weapons of mass destruction, wherein the use of nuclear science and technological research are done solely for peaceful purposes. Therefore, we would like to note the very pertinent and, unfortunately, very imperialist slogan "Nuclear energy for all, nuclear weapons for no one".

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.

Today, the permanent members of the Security Council, the European Union, Germany and Iran have presented us with an agreement that, if fully implemented, will provide a comprehensive and long-term solution to the Iran nuclear issue. The truly historic agreement reached in Vienna represents a triumph of diplomacy and cooperation over confrontation and mistrust. New Zealand commends all parties for staying the course throughout what were complex and challenging negotiations.

It is now crucial to ensure that the agreement is fully and swiftly implemented and that small missteps and misunderstandings not be allowed to derail the process. We urge all parties to approach that task with the same constructive intent that has led to this agreement, and we encourage Iran to act swiftly to implement all transparency measures and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency access to the relevant sites.

Through the adoption today of resolution 2231 (2015), we give international legal force to the agreement reached in Vienna and extend the obligations it contains across the broader United Nations membership. New Zealand endorses the comments of High Representative Mogherini, who has said that this is a good deal for everyone — for the parties who signed up to it and for the rest of the international community. Sadly, there are too few days when we can say that constructive and patient diplomacy has succeeded in bridging the differences and overcoming the mistrust that contain the seeds of conflict. Today we mark an opportunity to change the nature of the relationship between Iran and the international community, and we remind ourselves that with the right approach and with the commitment of key stakeholders, even seemingly intractable issues can be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. As the Council confronts the extraordinarily difficult challenges related to the Middle East peace process, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, that is a message we should reflect on today.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Khoshroo (Islamic Republic of Iran): Today's adoption by the Council of resolution 2231 (2015) marks a significant development and a fundamental shift in the Council's consideration of Iran's peaceful nuclear programme over the past 10 years. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is the result of an extensive series of collective efforts that for close to two years have sought to give diplomacy a chance and end resorts to pressure, coercion and threats. That fundamentally different approach, a departure from the path travelled in previous years, has helped all of us to opt for the best possible way out, put an end to an unnecessary crisis and accomplish a major achievement for all the parties involved and the international community as a whole.

Today's resolution and the Plan of Action that it endorses also provide for terminating the Security Council resolutions that placed unjustifiable sanctions on Iran for its efforts to exercise its rights. The sanctions were grounded on nothing but baseless and pure speculation and hearsay. Nobody has ever presented any proof that Iran's programme has been anything but peaceful. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which has put Iran's facilities through a record number of inspections, has consistently reported that Iran has duly stood by every single one of its commitments. For example, in terms of inspection frequency, only Japan has been subject to greater scrutiny than Iran, while Japan has far more extensive nuclear facilities. Last year, Iran even surpassed Japan in the number of inspections it was subjected to.

The Security Council's involvement was thus not based on a suspicious nuclear weapon programme; it was driven by the objective stated in resolution 1696 (2006), of compelling Iran to suspend its lawful enrichment programme. That demand was not only unnecessary and uncalled for, but also ran counter to the unanimous conclusions of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which stipulated that Member States' choices with regard to their fuel-cycle activities must be respected. It also ignored the repeated demands of the majority of the international community represented in the Non-Aligned Movement.

The sanctions imposed on Iran by resolution 1737 (2006) through resolution 1929 (2010) were all punishments for the Iranian people's refusal to accept that demand. In engaging with the E3+3, the Iranian people have had the foresight to move forward without losing sight of the past. While we therefore hope that the Security Council will open a new chapter in its relations with us, we cannot accept or forget its previous treatment of Iran, starting with its inaction in the face of Saddam's aggression and use of chemical weapons and continuing through its more recent approach to Iran's peaceful nuclear programme.

The solution we have arrived at is undoubtedly in the interests of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime in its entirety, since it includes and recognizes Iran's right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including conducting uranium enrichment activities and research and development on its territory. The rights and obligations of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as under any other international regime, must go hand in hand. Obligations can be honoured and such regimes, including that of the NPT, can be sustained only if those rights are also achievable. No threats of sanctions or war can sustain the NPT in the long run if the great Powers fail to honour all three of its pillars, including total nuclear disarmament and the right of all to use nuclear energy, and if non-parties are rewarded for their intransigence.

Looking to the future, my Government hopes that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution 2231 (2015) herald a new chapter in the relationship between Iran, the Council and the Plan of Action's participants. Iran is both able and willing to comply fully with its commitments under the Plan of Action, because it is already committed to the fatwa of its Supreme Leader, who has declared all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, to be haram, or forbidden, which is also a principle of Iran's defence doctrine. We hope that our partners and the Council will do the same with regard to their commitments under the same documents.

The desire that the Council has expressed for building a new relationship with Iran, its encouragement of all Member States to cooperate with Iran within the framework of the Plan of Action in the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and related projects, and its emphasis on the fact that the Plan of Action can help to promote and facilitate the development of normal economic and trade contacts and cooperation with Iran are all positive and encouraging signs.

While this deal focuses on the nuclear issue, Iran expects it to have broader positive implications for our region and the entire international community that include the following. First, the deal, sealed on the basis of mutual respect and understanding, is an important victory for diplomacy over the pressure and coercion exerted on Iran, which have produced no results over the past 37 years. It reinforces our faith in diplomacy as the most rational way to resolve differences in our interconnected world, and it shows that diplomacy can work and prevail over war and tension. It therefore sends a clear message to those who still believe they can achieve anything through force and coercion.

Secondly, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action has the potential to help trigger major developments in the region aimed at achieving greater cooperation and coordination in addressing the real issues at hand. We therefore earnestly hope that it helps turn a page in our region that can enable countries to close ranks, fight resolutely against violent extremism and move towards greater cooperation in addressing the grave threats facing the region and the world. While every country in the region has a very high stake in defeating terrorism, violent extremism and sectarianism, the Plan of Action's participants are facing similar challenges to their security from such phenomena. With the dust settled over the nuclear issue, we are now free to focus on real issues and to benefit from an improved environment conducive to wider cooperation among all actors.

Thirdly, in the wake of this major development in the region, we renew our confirmation to our neighbours and friends in the Persian Gulf and the wider region that Iran is ready to engage in good faith with all of them based on mutual respect, good-neighbourliness and brotherhood. We have many common challenges in our region to address and many common opportunities to benefit from. This is the time to start working together against our most common and important challenges, which include above all violent extremism.

Fourthly, the Israeli regime, following its general policy to stoke tension in the region, has done all in its power to sabotage and defeat any effort to resolve the standoff over Iran's nuclear energy programme. In so doing, it has proved once more that it does not see peace in our region to be in its interest and considers peace to be an existential threat to itself. The Iranophobia that it tries to spread in the region and beyond also serves that nefarious purpose. We therefore alert our friends and neighbours not to fall into Israel's trap.

In this context, it is also not surprising that the Israeli regime is the only obstacle in the way of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the concept for which my country initiated more than 40 years ago and has promoted ever since. We believe that the nuclear warheads stockpiled by the Israeli regime constitute a grave threat to peace and security in our unstable region, and that the Security Council should live up to its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and take the action necessary to neutralize this threat.

To conclude, let me recall that Iran, a nation with a rich culture and civilization, has withstood enormous millennial storms while being steadfast in preserving its independence and identity. These have not been acquired by oppressing others or reneging on commitments. The steadfastness that our delegation showed during the negotiations was based on the fact that we only accept commitments that we can abide by. As Iran is resolute in fulfilling its obligations, we expect that our counterparts shall also remain faithful to theirs. Only by honouring commitments, displaying good faith and adopting the right approach can we ensure that diplomacy will prevail over conflict and war in a world that is replete with violence, suffering and oppression. In this context, the Joint Comprehensive

Plan of Action provides a solid foundation for further and more effective diplomatic interaction.

Let me thank those Ambassadors who supported the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and those countries that helped this deal to happen. I also wish to briefly react to some baseless accusations leveled by some speakers in today's meeting. It is ironic that the Ambassador of the United States accused my Government of destabilizing the region and of terrorism. The country that invaded two countries of our region and created grounds favourable to the growth of terrorism and extremism is not well placed to raise such accusations against mine. The feckless and reckless actions of the United States in our region over many years are at the root of many challenges that we are now facing in our neighbourhood. Iran is a stable country in an unstable region. As we want our stability to endure, we promote stability in the region and help our neighbours to stabilize and cooperate towards that end.

In conclusion, let me also inform you, Mr. President, that my delegation, upon instruction from my Government, is forwarding the statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the action taken today by the Security Council, to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Mayr-Harting.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: The High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Federica Mogherini, has asked me to convey the following message to the Security Council:

> "The agreement reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran and China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the support of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy, on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is historic in nature.
>
> "The agreement, once implemented, marks a conclusion to the long-running diplomatic efforts to reach a comprehensive, long-lasting and peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear issue that will provide the necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, on the one hand, and the lifting of sanctions, on the other. As such, it represents a significant achievement and a tribute to the merits of patient diplomacy on all sides.
>
> "It is appropriate that the deal was struck in Vienna, where all this began 12 years ago, when the International Atomic Energy Agency started to look into possible undeclared Iranian nuclear activities. Since then, there have been many months and years of at times difficult negotiations. A key milestone in that process was the interim Geneva agreement of 2013, the smooth implementation of which provided the time and space necessary for the complex negotiation process that followed. This resulted in the Lausanne agreement in April 2015, which set the parameters for the final deal.
>
> "The E-3/EU+3 format was especially effective. We feel that the European Union, in particular through the High Representative, was able to play a crucial facilitation role. Throughout the whole process, the EU was the facilitator, moderator and, in the final stages, penholder for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action text and its annexes. It is hard to imagine another actor that could have done this. A key element of success was maintaining the unity of the group and focus on a shared goal. It is to the credit of all those who participated that we stayed committed to reaching a mutually beneficial deal. The fact that the self-imposed deadline was overrun several times bears witness to the shared view that a quality agreement was vastly superior to a quick one.
>
> "The agreement is good, durable and verifiable. Iran has agreed to make changes to its nuclear programme. The International Atomic Energy Agency will have the access it needs to determine when Iran has completed those actions and to detect any future violation of the agreement. Iran will receive phased sanctions-lifting in return. The Plan of Action annexes set out in detail what is required by all sides, providing clarity to facilitate the implementation of the agreement. Together with the conclusion to be made by the International Atomic Energy Agency in that regard, the full implementation by Iran of its commitments under the Plan of Action will contribute to building confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.
>
> "It will be necessary for all sides to work now towards implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The resolution adopted today

by the Security Council is a key element in this process. As agreed in Vienna, the European Union will endorse the resolution in conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council, which is in session as we speak. The European Union will also endorse the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and commits to abiding by its terms and to follow the agreed implementation plan."

In effect, European Union actions and commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action related to the lifting sanctions will be carried out in accordance with the timeline and modalities specified in the Plan. As stipulated in the Plan, the termination of the implementation of economic and financial sanctions would come into effect once the International Atomic Energy Agency has verified that Iran has implemented all of its nuclear-related commitments. For the time being, the provisions of the Joint Plan of Action agreed in Geneva in 2013 have been extended for a further six months, to cover the period until the International Atomic Energy Agency has verified that Iran has carried out its commitments.

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will continue her supporting and coordinating role during the entire implementation phase of the Plan of Action. The High Representative hopes and expects that this positive development will open the door to a steady improvement in relations between the European Union, its member States and Iran, as well as improved Iranian regional and international relations, and that it will constitute the basis of a more stable and secure region in the longer term. It is essential that this opportunity be seized by all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Braun (Germany): The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, reached in Vienna and endorsed today by the Security Council in resolution 2231 (2015), is an important, and possibly historic, step towards ending the decade-long conflict concerning Iran's nuclear programme. As such, it has the potential to ease concerns regarding peace and security in the region and beyond. Allow me briefly to address its significance from three different angles.

First, Germany firmly believes that the agreement does in fact reduce the risk of a nuclear arms race. After long and demanding negotiations, the E3+3 and the European Union has achieved a credible framework that will prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran has committed itself to comprehensive technical restrictions and an unprecedented transparency regime that will allow us to rule out any covert nuclear activities.

The agreement is not merely built on trust or goodwill; we have established a unique and long-term set of confidence-building measures. Everything we agreed on will be strictly monitored. A powerful snap-back mechanism for sanctions will serve as an additional incentive for Iran to abide by its obligations. It will now be crucial to effectively implement the agreement. The International Atomic Energy Agency will have an important role in that regard. In exchange for the nuclear restrictions, Iran will profit from early and comprehensive sanctions relief. The resolution adopted today is a decisive step in the right direction.

Secondly, the agreement also offers ample political opportunities for Iran. It reflects a fundamental choice by the Iranian Government. It is an expression of intent to be a constructive part of the international community. It is up to Iran to deliver on that commitment. We express our hope that, in fulfilling the agreement, Iran will seize this potential to bring about improvements in other fields as well, from civil liberties to human rights and the accommodation of regional security concerns.

Finally, we hope that the agreement reached in Vienna will also have a positive effect on the relations between Iran, the European Union and its member States — and that it will improve Iran's regional and international relations. We also hope that it will open the door to a more constructive Iranian foreign policy and, ultimately, contribute to a more secure and stable region.

The agreement reached in Vienna on 14 July has proved that complex and long-standing conflicts can be peacefully resolved if there is enough political will and courage. It is a victory for diplomacy and for the principles of the United Nations.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Seventh report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2015/518)

Fourth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2169 (2014) (S/2015/530)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Iraq to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/518, which contains the seventh report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013). I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/530, which contains the fourth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2169 (2014).

I now give the floor to Mr. Kubiš.

Mr. Kubiš: During my first briefing to the Council (see S/PV.7443), last May, I conveyed my initial impressions as mixed but cautiously positive. Two months later, my initial impressions remain valid, although I increasingly appreciate the scope, depth and complexity of the problems and challenges.

Since last summer's onslaught by terrorists of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Iraq has been living through one of the most difficult phases in its modern history. While the problems may seem daunting and persistent, there is hope, and there are opportunities and, notably, a vision for the way out of the crisis, as expressed in the national political agreement. The real issue is its implementation.

Iraq's political process is moving forward, but without the needed vigour. The Government has achieved many successes and deserves our acknowledgement and support. Prime Minister Al Abadi is seeking actively to fulfil the promises of the Government's programme, but has not always met with success. The political forces that have backed the Government and its programme often cooperate reluctantly, as if the existential threat posed by ISIL and the economic and social difficulties were already a thing of the past. The unity behind the creation of the current Government has not yet fully been translated into unity of purpose or action.

There are signs of a growing understanding, though, that the time has come for comprehensive political agreements, particularly for, as some leaders have described it, a historic national reconciliation. Several plans and blueprints have emerged recently, promoted by key leaders and political forces. Also, the national reconciliation commission has developed an action plan, an initiative owned and led by the Government. The so-called Baghdad document is currently being widely consulted and will benefit from inputs from all Iraqi components, allowing for further ownership of and inclusion in the process. This could provide a starting point for further consultations, including with different opposition groups. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) supports these processes.

This development is most welcome, although political compromises are urgently needed to accelerate the implementation of the national political agreement and ministerial programme. In this regard, institutional and legislative reforms remain key to preserving Iraq's unity, encouraging political reconciliation and defeating ISIL. Regrettably, the absence of consensus has halted the reform process. The national reconciliation legislative package, which includes key bills such as the national guard, the general amnesty and the justice and accountability laws, has seen limited progress since my previous briefing to the Council. All three bills are currently before the Council of Representatives, but progress has been stalled due to lack of trust between Iraqi communities and the absence of the necessary political will. I have informed my interlocutors in Parliament and in the Government that painful compromises are needed to ensure that these bills are passed instead of being returned to the Council of Ministers. Iraq and its people do not have the luxury of time.

Effective partnership between Baghdad and Erbil is equally critical to Iraq's unity and stability in fighting ISIL. In the recent period, the two sides have increasingly expressed disappointment with the implementation of the oil and revenue-sharing agreement signed last year. The period was also marked by the taking of some unilateral steps that work against the interests of both sides and the country as a whole. Both sides urgently need to renegotiate the deal and reach a truly sustainable and comprehensive agreement. UNAMI supports any option that will provide for such sustainability, reinforce confidence and partnership among the two sides, and keep them united in fighting ISIL.

One year after the fall of Mosul, a third of Iraq remains under the control and governance of ISIL. In the reporting period, the military offensives of the Iraqi security forces, with the critical support of the popular mobilization forces, tribal Sunni volunteers and the international coalition, have yet to significantly change the situation on the ground. Tikrit was liberated in March, but Ramadi fell in May. The Government's ongoing offensive in Anbar aims to reverse this setback.

The human cost of the conflict remains far too high. Since I last briefed the Council, UNAMI recorded a minimum of 1,200 civilians killed and more than 2,000 wounded as a result of armed conflict or terror attacks. UNAMI continues to receive widespread reports of attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, extrajudicial killings, abductions, rape and other forms of sexual violence, forced recruitment of children, wanton destruction and looting of civilian property, and denial of fundamental rights and freedoms. Minorities, women and children continue to be particularly vulnerable to the horrors and indignities inflicted by ISIL. The recent terrorist outrage during the Eid holidays near a Shiite mosque in Khan Bani Saad, in which over 120 civilians were reported killed and some 170 injured, bears further witness to this tragic fact.

Iraq is a mosaic of different ethnic and religious communities. Each component of the Iraqi people has suffered from a range of violations and abuses perpetrated at various times over recent decades. These violations and abuses have undermined trust among communities and eroded national identity. Exacerbating this sense of injustice are actions taken in the current phase of the conflict by ISIL and by some armed groups fighting against it, which aim at or result in forced demographic changes and the targeting of communities considered to be undesirable.

To restore trust and to rebuild unity among the various communities that form the Iraqi people, it is necessary to ensure justice and accountability for violations and abuses, whenever they have taken place and by whomever they were perpetrated, and to eliminate discrimination and marginalization wherever it occurs. Taking action to ensure the protection of diverse ethnic and religious minority communities and their full and equal participation in the economic, social and political life of Iraq will be challenging, but such action is required of the Government if the future cohesion of Iraq is to be assured.

The humanitarian situation is of the gravest concern. At least 8.2 million, roughly one in four Iraqis, need urgent assistance, and half of them need food assistance. More than 3 million people are internally displaced, and partners estimate that nearly 1 million more are likely to be displaced by continuing conflict and violence in the months ahead. Close to 300,000 refugees, mostly from Syria, have sought safety in the country. The Government is continuing to lead the operation, providing resources for cash stipends, distributing assistance and helping to erect camps for populations fleeing violence. Humanitarian partners are working around the clock to provide assistance, but funds are running short. Close to 80 health facilities will be closing in the weeks ahead unless support is received. Food rations have already been cut and scores of life-saving programmes are scheduled to shut down.

The implications of this situation are enormous and profoundly worrying. I thank the donor community for its pledges in response to the recent humanitarian response plan launched in cooperation with the European Union in Brussels on 4 June, but I urge the international community to do more to help desperately vulnerable Iraqi communities. We are very worried by reports that communities and families are being forced to look to ISIL for life-saving assistance, even as United Nations-sponsored programmes are closing for lack of funding.

At the same time, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in increasing numbers are starting to return to liberated areas. The stabilization efforts led by the Government with the support of the United Nations family using the United Nations Development Programme Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization are commendable,

but much more remains to be done to ensure that returns are voluntary, sustainable and dignified and that conditions are in place for people to be able to go out once they return to their homes. We are encouraging the Government to take all the necessary steps to guarantee their safety by exerting further pressure on armed elements temporarily controlling liberated areas in order to prevent occasional revenge attacks and other violations committed against IDPs and establish effective local control over security.

Permit me now to turn to the seventh report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2015/518), on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-party persons and property. Iraq-Kuwait relations are on the ascendant. Iraqi leaders and the United Nations have noted with gratitude the generous donation of $200 million for the needs of IDPs. There is much goodwill between the two sides, which can only grow if tangible results are achieved on the issue of the missing Kuwaiti persons and property. I intend to visit Kuwait to discuss this matter.

I would now like to turn briefly to the issue of the residents of Camp Hurriya. We need to alleviate Iraq's burden. I urge all countries to consider hosting the Camp's residents or to use their influence in assisting in their relocation.

I have one more reminder to make: on our United Nations national staff member taken hostage. In his report, the Secretary-General urges the Iraqi authorities to redouble efforts to secure his release. I strongly support his appeal. We should remember that 88 days have already elapsed without having received any credible information about our colleague, with no positive resolution of the case.

From the lessons learned over the years from the implementation of UNAMI's mandate and through a consultative process, the Secretary-General has spelled out his recommendations on where emphasis should lie with respect to future UNAMI and United Nations country team mandates and activities. The Council's decision later this month on our mandate will provide clear guidance and establish a refocused political framework for the United Nations, including UNAMI.

With the continued support of the Council, I remain confident that we can and we will work hand in hand with the Government of Iraq, political forces and civil society to achieve results in all areas, while in paraticular increasingly mobilizing regional support and cooperation. At this critical juncture, the Government of Iraq, its leadership and, most of all, Iraqis themselves need continuous and massive support and assistance from the international community.

The President: I thank Mr. Kubiš for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate New Zealand on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and for all its efforts to ensure transparency in the conduct the Council's work in July. I also thank Malaysia for its similar efforts during its presidency of the Security Council in June. I also welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Ján Kubiš, head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). I thank him and all his team for all their efforts, particularly in the very difficult circumstances currently facing Iraq.

Iraq attaches great importance to the work of UNAMI. Once again, we reiterate the importance of the key role played by the United Nations in its support to the Government and the people of Iraq, and in its efforts to foster democratic institutions, provide support to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and promote human rights — including those of young people, children and women — and judicial and legal reforms in the country. We thank them for all that broad-based support.

The Government of Iraq submitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council a letter calling for an extension of UNAMI's mandate, in line with the wishes of my country that the Mission's mandate be extended until 31 July 2016, on the basis of the principles of resolution 1770 (2007). We believe that it is important for the Mission to continue to provide aid and advice to the Government of Iraq in order to guarantee a dignified life for the families of displaced persons in particular.

As we have in the past, we underscore once again today the need to address terrorism and for international cooperation to achieve that goal. Any procrastination allows terrorist organizations to further infiltrate other countries and regions, and to entrench their presence in those areas where they are already operating. The deplorable and tragic events that have taken place in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, France and elsewhere attest to this. We would therefore like to reiterate once again the importance of promoting

international cooperation and for States to honour their commitments under resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2014), which condemn the activities of Daesh and foreign terrorist fighters, and identify the obligations and commitments of States in combating terrorism and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and in cutting off the funds available to Daesh, for example through oil funds and trafficking activities.

We therefore welcome the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, adopted by the Council of Europe on 19 May. Our hope is that all the members of the Council of Europe will move swiftly to implement the provisions of the Additional Protocol and that they will duly enact corresponding domestic legislation.

The Daesh attacks on cities and villages in the provinces of Iraq have led to huge internal displacements; more than 2 million Iraqis have had to flee Daesh violence. The Iraqi Government is working hard to meet their needs and to create relevant mechanisms to provide assistance to the victims of Daesh attacks, in particular the displaced and vulnerable persons, such as women, children and members of ethnic and religious minorities. We are also working hard to create the conditions for a safe and secure environment to allow the return of those displaced persons. The Iraqi Council of Ministers has earmarked half a billion dollars for support in meeting the needs of displaced persons. We look forward to providing more according to our ability.

We pay tribute to the role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which has been working closely with the Council of Ministers and the Government of Iraq in supporting IDPs and refugees. We are also grateful to the agencies that have been working hard to ensure that humanitarian aid is supplied to those in dire need.

We call on Member States to support the humanitarian response plan for Iraq and to work with the Government of Iraq to provide the necessary assistance to victims who have endured the terrorist scourge. We welcome the efforts of Member States and their contributions to supporting humanitarian efforts in Iraq thus far, which we hope will continue. We are also very grateful to Japan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Australia and Kuwait for providing Iraq with human and humanitarian resources to alleviate the humanitarian suffering, particular that experienced by displaced persons in Iraq. The Government of Iraq also thanks all members of the international alliance and the European Union for all their help in combating terrorism. We welcome their military and logistical assistance in support of the operations of the Iraqi security forces. We thank the Security Council for its persistence in calling upon the international community to provide the necessary support to Iraq to combat Daesh and other armed non-State groups affiliated it.

We call on the countries of the region to agree to exert greater efforts and vigilance in combating the terrorist threat and ensuring that we can extirpate it. We reiterate terrorism can be effectively countered only if we are persistent and unified. States and international and regional organizations need to work together and towards the same ends. That is the only way we can effectively and efficiently tackle the terrorist scourge.

The efforts undertaken to tackle Daesh have been supported by the Iraqi army and police, as well as by members of the popular mobilization forces and the tribes. That is proof of the courage of the Iraqi people and their rejection of Daesh's occupation of their cities and villages. All of these people and groups have been mobilized to support the efforts of the the international forces that are already working hard to combat and to extirpate those terrorist groups. We are working to liberate Fallujah and Ramadi in a two-front. We believe that this is proof of the power of the anti-terrorism coalition.

Over the past few years, Iraq has made considerable progress in the promotion of women's rights by adopting various national strategies, policies and programmes of action to that end. As for the fight against violence against women, the promotion of women's rights and the appointment of women to senior posts in Government institutions, we have established a unit within the Ministry of Human Rights to monitor and follow up violations of the rights of women in Iraq. We have also rolled out a directorate for the promotion of women and women's rights, which works at the level of the Council of Ministers, and a number of gender-specific units within various ministries and institutions. Today women are seen as essential partners in the decision-making process and we have appointed women to key posts in State institutions. Women are also represented in the Iraqi Parliament and in various decision-making posts in ministries and State institutions.

Iraq faces challenges of great magnitude as a result of the ferocious attacks carried out by terrorist groups on major urban centres, markets, schools and hospitals. In other words, they target civilians, including women and children. The armed groups are also recruiting children, which we are working hard to prevent. It is a source of great concern. We are also working to address the underlying causes of child recruitment. The Iraqi penal and counter-terrorism codes lay out general rules and regulations for sanctioning and punishing anyone who recruits children as fighters or participants in criminal terrorist activities.

There have been very positive developments recently in the bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait, as demonstrated by high-level visits between both countries aimed at promoting and encouraging improved links between them. We are currently discussing the establishment of an emergency fund to support rebuilding and reconstruction in areas that have been liberated from Daesh. The fourth joint ministerial meeting between Iraq and Kuwait saw significant progress in our bilateral relationships, including the signing of memorandums of understanding promoting cooperation in the areas of security, maritime issues and trade links, all of which should have a very positive effect on political, economic and other links between us.

In the context of the importance we attach to implementing resolution 2107 (2013), particularly paragraph 4, which focuses on efforts to follow up on missing Kuwaiti nationals and property, we have set up various units within our Ministry for Human Rights aimed, where necessary, at finding the grave sites and exhuming the remains of Kuwaiti citizens. Our efforts have also been supported by international expertise. Iraq will continue to make every effort to provide support for finding such disappeared Kuwaiti nationals and to find witnesses who can provide us with credible information on their possible burial sites so we can exhume their remains. The Iraqi people understand that the relatives of those who have disappeared are suffering from not knowing the fate of their loved ones, so we continue to make every possible effort to discover the fate not only of Kuwaitis but also of the thousands of Iraqis who lost their lives under the former regime, in order to give their families closure.

Regarding the restitution of Kuwaiti property and the Kuwaiti national archives, every three months the Minister for Foreign Affairs has published announcements in various journals, newspapers and elsewhere in the press requesting information on missing Kuwaiti nationals and goods. We believe this to be a key humanitarian issue. We will pursue our efforts to develop the capacity to streamline and improve the process of searching for and investigating missing persons and property. We welcome the support of UNAMI in that regard and hope that it will continue to provide the technical support and cooperation necessary to improve Iraq's capacity in that area. Also, we are continuing to work with Kuwait and with specialized agencies of the United Nations to complete the mapping of the border.

It is crucial that we find a way to deal with events in Syria and end the carnage being endured by the Syrian people. We must do whatever we can to find a political solution that will satisfy the demands of all parties to the conflict while preserving the country's territorial integrity and unity, which can best be reached by establishing assurances of non-interference from outside Syria in its internal affairs. We must also do all we can to cut off the flow of foreign fighters into the country. We must find a solution that is fair to all Syrians and that will enable them to pursue a life of dignity in a democratic country, achieve national reconciliation and deal with the armed groups in the country. We believe that will have the added effect of improving our fight against terrorism in Iraq, since terrorism does not respect borders and can be found in every region and country in the world.

We welcome the agreement on nuclear capacity just signed in Vienna between the P-5+1 and Iran. Iraq is making every effort to support them, as we have been since they began working to find a peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, and we look forward to giving them our support in the future. Baghdad was one of the cities hosting meetings of the P-5+1 and Iran, because we were convinced of the importance of the meetings for peace and security in the region as a whole. The agreement is also another weapon in the arsenal that can help us to end all possibility of war in the region. We welcome the Council's unanimous adoption this week of resolution 2231 (2015) in support of the agreement and call for its implementation.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and his team for their tireless efforts to provide information and advice and to support displaced Iraqis, and for working with the UNAMI and

country teams to enable us to establish the capacity we need to implement our mandate.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.